

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 28th February 1955.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort-St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SHORT NOTICE STARRED QUESTION.

New railway line from Virudhunagar to Manamadurai.

* 208-A Q.—SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the scheme for opening a new railway line from Virudhunagar to Manamadurai via Aruppukottai has been included in the Second Five-Year Plan;

(b) whether the scheme has been referred to the Madras Government for their suggestions; and

(c) if so, what their suggestions are?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“(a) The scheme for opening a railway line from Virudhunagar to Manamadurai via Aruppukottai was not recommended to the Government of India for inclusion in the Second Five-Year Plan. The Government of India's communication regarding the list of railway projects included in the Second Five-Year Plan has not been received.

“(b) No, Sir.

“(c) Does not arise.”

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI :—“மானாமதுரையிலிருந்து வேறு ஏதாவது ஊருக்கு ரயில் தொடர்பை ஏற்படுத்துவதற்கு சர்க்கார் திட்டம் போட்டிருக்கிறார்களா? அப்படியிருந்தால் அருப்புக்கோட்டை வழியாக விருது நகருக்கும், மானாமதுரைக்கும் ரயில் தொடர்பு ஏற்படுத்தும் திட்டம் தவிர வேறு எந்த திட்டமாவது மத்திய சர்க்காருக்கு இந்த சர்க்காரால் சிபாரிசு செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“மானாமதுரையிலிருந்து தூத்துக்குடிக்கு ஒரு ரயில் பாதை போடச் சிபார்சு செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. மொத்தம் 13 ரயில் பாதைகள் போடும்படி மத்திய சர்க்காருக்கு சிபார்சு செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. அவற்றைப் படிக்கிறேன் :—

- 1 தேனி—கூடலூர் ஜங்ஷன்.
- 2 நெய்வேலி—விருத்தாசலம் ஜங்ஷன்—பிராட் கேஜ்.
- 3 சேலம்—பங்களுர் லயன்.
- 4 சின்ன சேலம்—செங்கல்பட்டு.
- 5 மங்களுர்—ஹஸ்ஸான் லயன்.

[28th February 1955]

- 6 திருநெல்வேலி-குமரி முனை.
- 7 சேலம்-திருச்சிராப்பள்ளி லயன்.
- 8 மாணாதுரை-தூத்துக்குடி லயன்.
- 9 தஞ்சாவூர்-பட்டுக்கோட்டை லயன்.
- 10 காஞ்சிவரம்-வேலூர் லயன்.
- 11 சத்யமங்கலம்-சாம்ராஜ் நகர்.
- 12 தெல்லிச்சேரி-மைசூர் லயன்.
- 13 கொல்லங்கோடு-திருச்சூர்."

SRI A. SUBRAMANYAM :—"மொரப்பூரிலிருந்து கிருஷ்ணகிரி மார்க்கம் ஹோசூருக்குப் போடும்படியான லைன் திட்டத்தை இந்த ஐந்து வருஷத் திட்டத்திலே சேர்த்துக்கொள்ள மத்திய சர்க்காருக்கு நம் சர்க்கார் சிபார்சு செய்திருக்கிறதா?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"நான் இந்தச் சர்க்கார் மத்திய சர்க்காருக்கு எந்தெந்த ரயில் பாதைகளைப் போடவேண்டுமென்று சிபார்சு செய்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்று சொன்னேன். அவற்றில் மூன்றாவது வருஷ திட்டமாக சேலம்-பங்களூர் லைன் சிபார்சு செய்யப் பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதிலே கனம் அங்கத்தினர் சொல்லக்கூடிய கோரிக்கையும் இணைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதென்று நான் நினைக்கிறேன்."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—"ஐந்து வருஷத் திட்டத்தில் கடலாருக்கும் பாண்டிச்சேரிக்கும் ரயில் பாதை போடப்படும் உத்தேசம் இருக்கிறதா?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"அம்மாதிரி உத்தேசம் எதுவும் இல்லை."

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Collections under the National Plan Loan from the South Arcot district.

* 209 Q.—**SRI M. ETHIRAJULU** : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state the total amount collected under the National Plan Loan from South Arcot district during the years 1952-53 and 1953-54?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"The term 'National Plan Loan' applies to the loan raised by the Government of India during the current year. Apparently the hon. Member has in mind the loans raised by the State Government during the years 1952-53 and 1953-54. If so, the figures are—

Total subscriptions in the South Arcot district.			
RS.			
(IN LAKHS.)			
4 per cent Madras Government Loan, 1964, issued in 1952-53	..	..	2.77
4 per cent Madras Government Loan, 1963, issued in 1953-54	..	..	5.73 "

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI :—"இந்தச் சர்க்காருக்கு அடுத்த ஆண்டில் கடன் எழுப்புவதற்கு யோசனை உண்டா?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"தனித் தனியாக கடன் எழுப்புவதா அல்லது இந்த வருஷம் போலவே மத்திய அரசாங்கத்தின் மூலமே கடன் எழுப்புவதா என்கிற யோசனை இன்னும் முடிவு செய்யப்படவில்லை."

28th February 1955]

B.T. scales of pay to Hindi pandits.

* 210 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state the qualifications prescribed for Hindi pandits in order to make them eligible for B.T. scales of pay?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—“ Hindi teachers will be eligible for B.T. scales of pay under the following circumstances:—

- (1) They should possess the minimum general educational qualification; S.S.L.C. completed.
- (2) They should hold an oriental title in Hindi;
- (3) they should have received the Pracharak training; and
- (4) they should be in charge of Forms IV to VI of High schools and should have worked for not less than 17 hours a week.”

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY:—“ In view of the fact that the Pracharak Diploma has been recognized to be equivalent to the Visharad Diploma of the Dakshina Bharata Hindi Prachar Sabha, will the Government kindly see that those who have obtained the Visharad Diploma and who possess a general qualification of S.S.L.C. and who have had some teacher training (though not like the Pracharak training) are given the B.T. scale of pay? ”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—“ These are the prescribed qualifications now. If there are any other alternative suggestions which the hon. Member wishes to make, he may put them in writing and send them to me for scrutiny and examination.”

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY:—“ May I submit that this matter of qualification and pay of Hindi pandits has been discussed again and again on the floor of the House, and may I request the Government to go into the whole question and see that this Pracharak Diploma course which is not a mere training course, but a combined general and training course is not insisted on and separate schools are started for training Hindi pandits just as is done in the case of Tamil and Sanskrit pandits to render justice to these Hindi teachers? ”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—“ I may confess that I am not conversant with this diploma course and what is contained in it. But as the hon. Member himself said, this matter has been examined by Government repeatedly and I do not think there is need for further examination.”

Number of basic elementary schools in Tanjore district.

* 211 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of basic elementary schools in the Tanjore district;

[28th February 1955]

(b) the number of such schools in municipal areas;

(c) the number of supervisors appointed by the municipalities to supervise such schools; and

(d) the number of such supervisors who have had basic training?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“(a) 130.

“(b) 12.

“(c) One. That supervisor supervises both Basic and non-Basic schools.

“(d) Nil.”

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY :—“May I request the Hon. Minister to just give the figure for Tanjore Municipality alone?”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“I am sorry I do not have separate figures.”

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY :—“Is it not a fact, Sir, that for the Tanjore Municipality to supervise all these basic schools a supervisor, who is non-basic, has been appointed in order to observe seniority among all the secondary-grade teachers in the municipality?”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“I would like to have notice, Sir.”

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY :—“May I request the Government to issue instructions to the municipalities where there are basic schools to have a separate cadre for basic-trained teachers and to appoint supervisors from that cadre without looking into the seniority of the whole of secondary-grade teachers in the municipality?”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“When the number of basic schools is comparatively small, I do not think we could have a separate officer for supervising these basic schools only. The hon. Member will be pleased to know that of all the schools in the Tanjore district, the number of basic schools is only twelve. Therefore, in each municipality the number of basic schools is only a handful and I do not think therefore that any useful purpose will be served by appointing separate officers to supervise the basic schools?”

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY :—“May I request the Government, Sir, to encourage basic-trained secondary-grade teachers as and when the number of basic schools expands?”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“Yes, Sir, as and when we expand basic education, this will be borne in mind.”

28th February 1955]

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI :—“ ஒரு முனிசிபாலிட்டியில் டிரெயினிங் இல்லாத சூப்பர்வைசர் நியமிக்கப்பட்டதென்று சொல்லப்பட்டதே அது எந்த முனிசிபாலிட்டி? அந்த முனிசிபாலிட்டியில் எத்தனை ஆதார பள்ளிகள் இருக்கின்றன?”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ அது தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் இருக்கக்கூடிய முனிசிபாலிட்டிகள். அந்த முனிசிபாலிட்டிகளில் மொத்தம் 12 ஆதார பள்ளிகள் இருக்கின்றன.”

Educational concessions to Vanniakula Kshatriyas.

* 212 Q.—**SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR** : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state— 3-10 p.m.

(a) whether the Backward Classes Commission has made any urgent recommendations to the Government in respect of Vanniakula Kshatriyas of North Arcot, South Arcot, Tanjore and other districts alone for the grant of full fee educational concessions; and

(b) if not, the necessity for the preferential treatment shown to that particular community alone in respect of educational concessions?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ (a) No, Sir.

“ (b) No preferential treatment has been made to this community.”

SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR :—“ Sir, if it is not preferential treatment, may I know what kind of treatment it is? Why is it that that community alone has been taken into consideration?”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ Sir, it is not the entire community that has been taken into consideration. It is only a particular section which belongs to the criminal tribes that has been taken into consideration.”

SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR :—“ How many backward classes are there in the Government list, Sir?”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ I would request the hon. Member to refer to the list, Sir.”

SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR :—“ Suppose I say that there are 153 classes in the list, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to accept that statement?”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ I do not want to be cross-examined like this. The hon. Member may refer to the list and find out the number.”

[28th February 1955]

SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR :—“ I have found it, Sir. Will the Government be pleased to consider the claims of so many poorer classes, such as, Ahamadiars, Kallars, Maravars, Vannars, Vaniyars, Senaithalaivars and Kaikolars? ”

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—“ Is not the Backward Classes Commission going into this question, Sir? ”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ Sir, the point is this.

There has been a certain amount of misunderstanding with regard to this Government Order which, as a matter of fact, clarified the position in regard to Vanniakula Kshatriya community. Amongst the Padayachis, who are also called Vanniakula Kshatriyas, there is a section belonging to the Criminal Tribes, who are entitled to full fee concession as Scheduled tribes. Now these Padayachis are also called Vanniyakula Kshatriyas. Simply because they called themselves Vanniyakula Kshatriyas, even though they belonged to the Criminal Tribes, they were refused this full fee concession. What the Government Order lays down is that where a person calls himself a Vanniyakula Kshatriya or Padayachi, and if, as a matter of fact, he belongs to the Criminal Tribes, this full fee concession should be given. This is the effect of the Government Order. I know the wording is not quite happy and so that is being clarified.”

SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR :—“ Will this concession be given in high schools, colleges and professional colleges? ”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ Sir, the Madras Educational Rules apply to this matter. Under Rule 92, whatever concession is applicable to Scheduled tribes and Scheduled classes will be applicable to them.”

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—“ Sir, the other day the Finance Minister gave us the good news that backward classes had made a good deal of advance and even in open competition they fared much better. May I ask, Sir, whether the time has not come to declare the forward classes as backward classes and *vice versa*? ”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ Sir, I think that matter will be considered by the Backward Classes Commission.”

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI :—“ பிற்பட்ட வகுப்பு கமிஷனுடைய வேலை அந்த வகுப்பாருக்கு எப்படி கல்வி சலுகை அளிப்பது என்பதை ஆராய்வதா? அல்லது மற்ற செளகர்யங்களையும் எப்படி அளிப்பது என ஆராய்வதா? ”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ எந்தெந்த விதங்களில் எல்லாம் சலுகை கொடுக்கலாம் என்பதை ஆராய்ந்து சர்க்காருக்குச் சிபார்சு செய்வதேயாகும்.”

28th February 1955]

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Sir, will the Government consider the question of making no distinction whatever between the communities, but give fee concession to all poor and deserving students, whatever may be the community they may belong to? ”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ I hope the hon. Member would appreciate the beginning that we have made in that direction. I referred to this in my budget speech yesterday.”

SRI A. SUBRAMANYAM :—“ வன்னிய குல சூத்திரிய பிள்ளைகளுக்கு இலவசமாக கல்வி கொடுக்கப்படுமென்று சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதே போல தென்றோற்காடு, வடாற்காடு, மதுரை, தஞ்சாவூர், திருநெல்வேலி போன்ற எல்லா இடங்களிலும் உள்ள வன்னியகுல சூத்திரியப் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு எல்லாம் சலுகை உடனடியாகக் கொடுக்கப்படுமா ? ”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ இதைப்பற்றித்தான் நான் விரிவாக ஆங்கிலத்தில் சொன்னேன். அதை கனம் அங்கத்தினர் கவனித்திருப்பார்கள் என்று நம்புகிறேன். இந்த வகுப்பாரிலும் குற்ற பரம்பரையைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களுக்குத்தான் இந்த முழுச் சலுகை அளிக்கப்படுகிறது. வேறு சில ஜில்லாக்களில் உள்ளவர்கள் குற்றப் பரம்பரையைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களாக இருந்தும் தங்களை வன்னியர்கள் என்று கூறிக்கொண்டதால் இவர்களுக்குப் பூர்ண கல்விச் சலுகை கொடுக்கவில்லை. சில குறிப்பிட்ட ஜில்லாக்களில் மட்டும் தான் இந்த குற்ற பரம்பரையைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகவேதான் அந்த ஜில்லாக்களில் உள்ளவர்களுக்குப் பூர்ண கல்விச் சலுகை அளிக்கப்படுமென்று அறிக்கை விடப்பட்டது. அதனால்தான் தப்பு அபிப்பிராயம் ஏற்பட்டுள்ளது என்று நினைக்கிறேன். பிற்பட்ட வகுப்புக் கமிஷன் தனது யாதாஸ்து சமர்ப்பித்தவுடன் அவர்கள் என்னென்ன சிபார்சுகளைச் செய்திருக்கிறார்களோ அவற்றையெல்லாம் சர்க்கார் பரிசீலனை செய்து தக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கும். அப்போது இவ் விஷயமும் கவனிக்கப்படும்.”

Violation of the Prohibition Act in the South Arcot district.

* 213 Q.—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) the number of persons convicted for violation of the Prohibition Act in the South Arcot district from the years 1951 to 1954;

(b) the amount of fines collected during the years 1951 to 1954;

(c) the number of prosecutions launched by the Police and Excise Departments during the above period; and

(d) how many of the persons involved in the above cases are men, women and juveniles?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ (a), (b), (c) & (d) A statement* is laid on the table of the House.”

[28th February 1955]

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—“ Does the Hon. Minister think that Prohibition is a success even after placing this sheet of paper on the table of the House for our information? According to statistics, Prohibition does not seem to be a success.”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ Sir, this question refers to South Arcot district. We cannot from the statistics of one particular district say that Prohibition is a failure.”

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—“ Sir, I quite appreciate that. If the same conclusion is to apply to almost every district, I think the effect will be quite clear? ”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ Sir, the Government are receiving good reports from the districts; after this work has been entrusted to the Police department, we hope to get good reports, and we hope to see that Prohibition is a success in this State.”

SRI K. BHASHYAM :—“ Sir, in view of the number of convicts decreasing from 1952, is it not an encouraging sign that Prohibition is working well in the district? ”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ Definitely so, Sir.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ How is that conclusion possible on the figures furnished in the statement? ”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ The hon. Member has got to look into the figures correctly. I do not think that Members need worry about the success or failure of Prohibition. All that we want is the unstinted co-operation of hon. Members like Dr. John.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Sir, if in one district the Government are prosecuting five thousand people, in all the districts they must be prosecuting 50,000 people.”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ We have got to do so in order that Prohibition may be a success.”

SRI K. BHASHYAM :—“ Throughout the whole State are not more than five lakhs of people convicted for various offences under the Indian Penal Code? ”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ Yes, Sir.”

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—“ May I ask, Sir, if Prohibition has failed, according to the figures given in the statement, whether it will not be taken as an indication logically? What does our Hon. Minister mean by saying that Members have to co-operate with the Government? Does he mean that we should also not drink? Of course we are not drinking and we are

28th February 1955]

co-operating with the Government. I think Dr. John also comes under the same category. We are all sailing in the same boat. Therefore, we are perfectly co-operating with the Hon. Minister, and he cannot blame us for non-co-operation."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" The hon. Member is making a speech."

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" This question relates to South Arcot district. All that I said was that from the figures it was quite clear that Prohibition in South Arcot was a success. We are really getting encouraging reports from the district."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" In one district the Government collect about a lakh of rupees as fine. May I take it that they have collected more than ten lakhs of rupees as fine from the poor people throughout the State? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, it is not mere arithmetic. We have to go into the statistics and then only come to a conclusion. I cannot now give an answer off-hand."

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI :—" Sir, under the offences enumerated in the Indian Penal Code, which is in existence for long, many people are convicted and punished. On that basis is it possible for us to say that the law is not effective? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" No, Sir."

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1955-56.

* DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, before the general discussion on the Budget commences, I should like to make a submission to you. I find from the proceedings of the Council of the 3rd March 1951, I raised a similar issue. If I may be permitted to quote, I may say what I said then. I said, Sir,—

' I venture to appeal to you and to suggest that the procedure that was being followed in the Monford Reforms days, when the legislature was a unicameral one, was that the last day of the Budget discussion or a good portion of the last day was set apart for the Hon. the Ministers to reply in respect of their departments. I venture to submit that in this House, where there is no opportunity of specific Budget grants being moved by the various departmental heads it would be very much to the advantage of hon. Members who are not familiar with the details of the Budget, if Hon. Ministers will respond to any suggestions or criticism of their respective departments.'

[Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar] [28th February 1955]

3-20 Sir, in response to this the then Leader of the House Sri
p.m. K. Madhava Menon said: 'Last year the same suggestion was made, and five of us replied. It may not be necessary for all of us to reply. But we shall certainly take note of important matters. The Hon. Minister concerned who has more knowledge of the subject will certainly reply'.

"Sir, this healthy convention was unfortunately not followed in the last two years. I venture to submit that it is time that we started this convention again. I would like to know what the Hon. the Leader of the House has got to say in the matter."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"I wish to repeat what the then Leader of the House has been quoted to have said. We shall see that as many Ministers as are necessary take part in the discussion at the end of the debate."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—"Mr. Chairman, at the very outset I wish to express a word of sympathy for the Hon. the Minister for Finance as he should have the necessary patience—which of course he possesses—to follow the Budget debates simultaneously both in the Assembly and in the Council. It is the desire of the hon. Members on this side of the House to make necessary and constructive suggestions with the full sense of responsibility in the hope that the Government will bear them in mind. That has been our tradition all along."

"Last year, I referred to a particular matter to which a reply was not given. Sir, I refer to the fact that even after partition, there has been no attempt on the part of the Government to effect some economy so far as administrative charges are concerned. I think, subject to correction, that more than Rs. 16 crores is being spent under this head. The number of officers required and the salary that they should draw after partition are questions which the Government should carefully consider. I won't be so harsh or uncharitable to suggest that the present incumbents should not draw the salary which they were previously drawing. I only want the Government to consider these matters for the future. I think the time has come for the Government and the Finance Minister to take stock of the situation in the State which has considerably dwindled in size and income and see whether the same number of high-paid officials is necessary even after partition. If the Government feel that there is need for the same number of these officials, I have no objection. Frequent references have been made both from this side of the House and the other side that while the Government have been spending quite a lot of money, they do not take the necessary care and attention to see that strict economy is observed. Sir, there is a feeling both here and outside, that there is a good deal of wastage in some of the departments. In the short time available, it is not possible for me to particularise the departments. Once we bring this matter to the notice of the Finance Minister and the Government, we think that it will be taken note of by them. I am sorry

28th February 1955]

[Sri Mohamed Raza Khan]

that the Hon. the Finance Minister has not mentioned anything about this matter in his Budget speech. However, I hope he will bear this point in mind and take necessary action at least in the years to come.

“ With regard to the Budget itself, much has been mentioned about the First Five-Year Plan and the Second Five-Year Plan, with the intention that the hon. Members of the House should take interest in those Plans. The Hon. the Finance Minister has also made an appeal to the Members to help him in all possible ways. He has also mentioned that there will be District Planning Committees for every district. I think the Hon. Finance Minister will do well to have a State Planning Advisory Committee also. Because, the District Committees will confine their activities to the particular districts only. But, there are many problems which affect the whole State. There are very eminent men who can advise the Government on these vital problems affecting the State as a whole. Take the case of irrigation, electricity and industrial development. These are fields covering the entire State and not merely the districts. Unless we have a State Planning Committee, wherein experts in these fields will be functioning, most of the problems confronting the State cannot be solved. I hope the Government will see their way in constituting a State Planning Committee also so that the services of experts in various fields may be available to the Government. Sir, I do admit that much has been attempted and also done in the fields of irrigation and electricity. But, unfortunately our resources in the field of irrigation are getting exhausted. For instance, we are not able to make full use of the waters of the Palar. There is a dispute between the Government of Madras and the Government of Mysore in regard to the utilization of the waters of this river and it has not yet been settled. If I remember aright, some representation has also been made to the Central Government requesting them to use their good offices with the Mysore Government and see that the waters of this river are made available for the people of the North Arcot district.

“ Sir, in the field of electricity, much has been done and nobody will have much grouse in the matter. I wish to point out, however, that if the schemes adumbrated in the First Five-Year Plan and the Second Five-Year Plan are to succeed the Government must come forward to take up rural electrification. I have not seen any indication on the part of the Government to take over the distributing agencies. Many of the distributing agencies at present want the Government to take over distribution. There is also an Act empowering the Government to do this. The Government must do this as early as possible and supply electricity to all the villages which remain without this amenity for a very long time.

“ Sir, it has been said many a time that our progress in the industrial field when compared to the other States has been very poor and backward. I do not find much hope or even a ray of

[Sri Mohamed Raza Khan]

[28th February 1955]

hope in the speech of the Hon. the Finance Minister. Of course, there is mention of the exploitation of lignite in South Arcot district. It is expected that this project will help this part of the country which is industrially very backward. So far as the industrial development of the State is concerned, an attempt should be made either by the Central Government, or the State Government or in the private sector. But, unfortunately, conditions being what they are in this State, private sector is not going to play a substantial part in the matter of industrial development. In view of the heavy taxes which they have to pay, I am doubtful whether private people will come forward to start some heavy industries. Moreover, because of the financial implications involved and the uncertainty prevailing in the country with regard to the scope for private enterprise, much help cannot be expected from the private sector. So, the Government of Madras must necessarily look to the Central Government for the required help for starting heavy industries. There was some hope that the contemplated steel plant might be opened here. But nothing has been done in this regard so far. I appeal to the Hon. the Finance Minister to take up the matter with the Central Government and see that some heavy industries are started in this State which is industrially very backward.

“As for the lignite exploitation in South Arcot, we do not have much details. We are only told that the State will get 25 per cent of the profit from this project. No doubt this is a big scheme which will cost Rs. 60 crores which this Government cannot afford under the present financial stringency. I wish more details about this project had been given. Except this project, we do not have any heavy industry. That is why I have to request the Government to make a sincere and serious attempt in persuading the Central Government to locate some of the heavy industries in this State.

“Now, I come to the question of grants to local bodies. Sir, the Hon. the Finance Minister seems to have a very soft corner for local boards. He has now come forward with a new taxation proposal to which I shall refer later. For the present, I would like to ask, ‘Have the Government satisfied themselves that the grants that they make to the local bodies are being properly utilized?’ I do concede the point that the resources of the local bodies are very limited. But still, I would like to know whether the resources that are made available to them are properly made use of. Whether it be the panchayats, district boards, municipalities or even the City Corporation, do they properly use the money that they collect from the people as well as the money that they get from the Government as grant? By way of education cess, lakhs and lakhs of rupees are being collected every year from the people of this State. How many libraries have been opened in the various districts, municipalities or even in the city? Have the Government any information as to how much they collect as education cess and how many libraries they have opened? I do

28th February 1955] [Sri Mohamed Raza Khan]

not claim to know much of the local bodies. But I know their state of affairs is not as it should be. Over and above the grants that are at present made available to the local bodies, the Government have now come forward with a new proposal to tax somebody else, get a sum of Rs. 75 lakhs and make it available to the local bodies. I only want to stress that the Government must take proper care in seeing that the money that they make available to the local bodies is spent in the best manner possible. Let the Government be careful about it. I leave this subject at that.

“ There are several subjects on which I would like to speak but as the time at my disposal is not much, I shall confine myself to just three or four subjects. I shall now take up ‘ Harijan Uplift.’ Sir, there was only a very small provision under this head in the beginning. It is now Rs. 110 lakhs for the coming year. There is a complaint that the money provided for is not properly utilized. Hostels are opened but accounts are not kept. The number of students on rolls is one but the number of students present is different. I do not mean to suggest that the provision should be curtailed. When we are spending Rs. 110 lakhs we should see that the money is properly spent. We must see whether the money goes to persons who are intended to get it or for whom it is earmarked. This is not an ordinary sum. Although the provision may look small as compared with our total revenue of Rs. 45 crores, yet we must see that the benefit goes to the people to whom it should go. I leave the question to the Government to decide how it should be done. They may have a small committee of officials or non-officials to scrutinize the accounts and see that the provision is properly utilized. 3-3 .m.

“ With regard to education, Sir, I say it is not my field. There are very eminent personalities here, particularly, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, who can speak with all authority on the subject. However, I wish to say one or two words on this subject also. We are very happy that during the Vice-Chancellorship of Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar more than 40 colleges have been opened in our State. But let not the Government or the Hon. the Minister for Education take credit for this. People have found that the Government agency is not functioning properly and that there should be private agencies forthcoming to open more and more colleges, especially in districts, where there are not many and where there are none. So, the credit for opening these colleges should go to the people. When I am on this subject I would like to pay a tribute to the service rendered to the cause of education by the various Christian Missionaries. They have done well. Still, we wish more and various communities and sub-communities have come out with contributions to start new colleges. But what is the amount of encouragement they get from the Government of Madras? The Government grant a sum of Rs. 75,000 to a first-grade college and Rs. 50,000 to a second-grade college. Is this the kind of help the colleges expect from the

[Sri Mohamed Raza Khan] [28th February 1955]

Government? Is it possible for a first-grade college and a second-grade college to carry on with these meagre grants? Sir, I am not cutting a joke or making a cheap attack on the Leader of the Opposition when I say he is a very costly Vice-Chancellor. Of course, I am also connected with a college and I know the rules of the University on the subject of endowments for starting colleges are so very rigid that he will not be content with a 'cheap' college. He never relaxes the rules, although he would allow time up to five or six months to the private agencies to fulfil the conditions of affiliation. He insists on the conditions being fulfilled completely, and colleges cannot be started with the promise of Rs. 75,000 and Rs. 50,000 offered by way of grants by the Government. Probably this limit was fixed under different conditions by the predecessor of our present Education Minister. I think the time has come for a reconsideration of the whole question.

"Incidentally, Sir, I quite welcome the proposal of the Government to provide education up to III form for all poor children. This is a very healthy thing that the Government have done because there are people belonging to communities which are considered as forward communities who are really poor in status. So, I feel that the Government deserve our congratulations on this wise step of theirs.

"Sir, some time back, the Intermediate class was taken away from the Presidency College and tacked on to the Muhammadan College. It might have been for political reasons. But when it was done, it was stated on the floor of the House that high research would be carried on in the Presidency College from then onwards. I would like to know to what extent this promise has been fulfilled. Four years ago, the promise was made by the Education Minister. Now what are the subjects in which research is made? Have you afforded research facilities in subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Biology, etc.? I want an answer to this question.

"I come next to taxation proposals. Sir, I may congratulate the Hon. Mr. Subramaniam on his capacity and efficiency in this regard. As far as imposing taxes is concerned, I think there has been none in the whole of India in the last three years to beat him. You take the number of taxation measures undertaken by the Government. It might well make one say, 'Well, you are the best Finance Minister', when he retires, not that I want him to retire early. It will be seen, Sir, that even the taxation measures adumbrated in the last year's Budget are yet to be passed by the Legislature. What does it show? They are too many in number and also cumbersome. We all thought that he would say at least this year: 'We have no new taxes this year; we shall rest and see next year.' But that is not to be. After all, the deficit is only about Rs. 360 lakhs and there is nothing sacrosanct about surplus budgets. I do not want to use a harsh term like 'jugglery of words' here. It is just a question of figures and to

28th February 1955]

[Sri Mohamed Raza Khan]

adjust three or four crores of rupees is not very difficult in a State whose budget runs to Rs. 45 crores. We thought he would make the Members of the Council say 'We are all very happy' but he has greeted us with two more taxes. One is with regard to the water-rates. The Hon. the Minister a little time ago expressed his anxiety about the growing downward trend in food prices. I ask him now : 'How is this additional tax of two annas in the rupee going to help to arrest that trend?' There is already a land revenue surcharge and there is also what is called water-cess collected from the landholders. I think this additional tax will make their position more difficult. Sir, most of the States this year have come out with deficit budgets. But they have no taxation proposals at all. But Madras has the record of taxing the people further. We have already taxed the people to the maximum capacity. Why tax them more? In this connexion, Sir, I would like to lay emphasis on one fact. We are awaiting the report of the Taxation Enquiry Commission. The Hon. the Finance Minister could well have waited for their report and said : 'We have no taxes this year; we shall wait for a while.'

"Then comes the tax on tobacco. The Hon. the Minister, a clever man as he is, did not give any indication in the speech that he has delivered as to how this tax would be levied. (The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam : 'It will be sales tax on tobacco products.') Sir, I think, in the year 1953 when another taxation proposal was made with regard to tobacco products in the Legislature, the Government, on reconsideration of their proposals decided to tax only costly cigarettes, leaving the rest untaxed. I do not know what has happened these days for the Hon. the Finance Minister to think of taxing the very articles which they felt they should not tax. Sir, in these matters, there should be some finality. Of course, the Government may, for the sake of argument, say : 'This is all unnecessary for people; only those who are accustomed to it will have to bear the incidence of this taxation'."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Does the hon. Member smoke?"

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—"I smoke very heavily. If this tax is levied, people may have to go in for other cheaper brands. And when they do it, they do so at the risk of their health. Sir, the tax may be said to be small—Rs. 1-9-0. It may be small but cumulatively, its effect may be great. Already, there is tussle between labour and factory owners. Now this additional tax of Rs. 1-9-0 which the factory owner may have to pay will only affect labour.

3-40
p.m.

"Of course, the beedis cannot come under the tax because they are sold each for one pie and two pies. But let me say that once you impose heavy taxation, it will affect the whole industry. Already the beedi and tobacco industry are taxed very

[Sri Mohamed Raza Khan] [28th February 1955]

heavily by the Central Government. Therefore, I do not think it will stand to reason to tax them again. I am sure the Hon. Finance Minister will consider what I have said."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I just request the hon. Member to persuade the Hon. Finance Minister to smoke beedi? "

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" The Hon. Finance Minister is not one who could be so easily influenced . . . "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Say ' who could be tempted '."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" And that too to smoke beedi. (Laughter.) I would come to another question which of course the Hon. the Finance Minister has told once that I often repeat. Of course, I repeat things because sometimes it is necessary to repeat in the hope that even if once you do not appreciate it, at least some time later, you may appreciate it. I do maintain that the decision of the Government of Madras to put an additional tax of Re. 0-1-3 in the rupee on fine and super-fine mill cloth was not at all a justifiable thing. The Central Government is already taxing the mill industry at various stages by means of excise duty, handloom cess, etc., and then comes the Madras sales tax. When already this is the burden that the mill industry is bearing, I ask is it justifiable and does it stand to reason to put an additional tax of Re. 0-1-3 in the rupee? After all what is that that you are going to get by means of this tax? Hardly Rs. 40 lakhs. May I just inform the Hon. Minister for Industries that this tax far from encouraging the people to buy handloom cloth, has an indirect effect upon the people. They go in for handloom cloth to the adjacent Andhra State where there is no such tax of Re. 0-1-3. Moreover by this present tax, it is likely that the business transactions may shift to another State. I should like to mention another point also. On private transactions, without any vouchers or bills, handloom cloth is sold and bought. Thereby this additional tax of Re. 0-1-3 imposed is evaded and not collected. After all when it comes to a question of money naturally even an honest businessman is tempted and is apt to go wrong. And it is a known fact that all businessmen could not be honest cent per cent. Of course the President has not given his assent to the Bill, which seeks to levy an additional tax of Re. 0-1-3 in the rupee on the medium cloth, which this State Government had imposed last year to crown their achievement in imposing the tax on fine and super-fine cloth. Of course it is not as if my voice is going to be heard directly by the President; but, Sir, I am quite sure that that Bill which seeks to levy a tax of Re. 0-1-3 in the rupee on medium cloth will not see the light of day because it will be very difficult then for people who go to buy this cheap medium cloth to pay an additional tax of Re. 0-1-3 and that too on every rupee worth of purchase they make.

28th February 1955]

[Sri Mohamed Raza Khan]

“ I do not want to take much of the time of the House in talking much about the additional tax levied on the sale of fine and super-fine cloth and which this Government say will go in only for helping the handloom industry. As far as the handloom industry is concerned, there could be no two opinions about it being given the necessary protection. Neither we on this side nor those on the other side object to the protection being given to the handloom industry. But does all the money that this Government get from the Centre from the Handloom Cess Fund (I think it is more than a lakh of rupees) go directly to the handloom industry? Of course in reply to a question the Hon. Minister for Finance furnished a statement regarding the collections from the Handloom Cess Fund and its allocation to different categories. When we get money, of course, it should be spent and we should see to it that it is spent properly. I think the Hon. Minister for Industries should be bold enough to say that the entire money derived from Handloom Cess Fund and the help they get from the Centre for the amelioration of the condition of weavers, all the money, in toto, goes to the handloom industry? I am sure it does not. All the money is not spent for the sake of handloom industry. Of course, the money that is got is distributed to the three or four big handloom co-operative societies. But hardly 20 to 25 per cent of the weavers are in the co-operative fold. What about the rest of the percentage of weavers? You have got to help the remaining 70 to 80 per cent of weavers who are not in the co-operative fold. I think there are competent people in the Madras Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society who could speak with some authority on this subject. I think they have made some concrete proposals to Government as to how all the handloom weavers could be protected and as to how they could be brought into the co-operative fold and made to reap the benefits of the Handloom Cess Fund. I may request the Hon. Minister for Industries to take careful note of the views of those experts and see to it that the entire money that is got from the Centre from the Handloom Cess Fund is utilized wholly for the benefit of the handloom weavers. As I already said there is no difference of opinion either on this side or on the other side as regards protection being given to the handloom industry. The Government seem to think that by levying the additional tax of Re. 0-1-3 in the rupee they could induce people to buy handloom cloth in increasing numbers. I am afraid that economy could not be made on that basis. Take for instance, Khadi. May be Dr. John and I do not wear khadi. May be some members other than those in the Congress Party do wear khadi because of their own liking. In all these matters you cannot succeed by compulsion. If you compel people to buy handloom cloth the reaction would only be otherwise.

“ I should like to say something in conclusion about the new taxation measures. I may request the Hon. Finance Minister to scrutinise the figures once more and not bring in the Bill embodying the new taxation measures this year. After all the deficit is

[Sri Mohamed Rāza Khan] [28th February 1955]

not very much. I think it will be too much for us to say that for *this* department sufficient provision has not been made in the Budget while for *that* department some other provision has been made. I do appreciate the difficulties of the Hon. the Finance Minister in framing the budget. He has got to make provision for nation-building activities which again is the responsibility of every department. Therefore I say that the Hon. Finance Minister is the best judge to allocate the money necessary for every department consistent with the work which that department has got to do. But so far as the Police department is concerned (as much as Rs. 5 to 6 crores is now being consumed by it) I would say that of all departments, that has been given the largest provision. Of course for keeping law and order in our State, that department is vital. We are proud that in our State, the law and order situation has been well kept all these years. I would only request the Hon. Finance Minister to just see whether there is any chance to effect any economy in that department (Police) without impairing the efficiency. I leave it to the Finance Minister because I think he is the best man to deal with it.

"If I am not charged with expressing any communal feeling, I should like to say a word or two in conclusion about my community, I mean the Muslim community. Sir, the members of our community feel that we have not been given sufficient representation in the public services. We have not been given a 'square deal'. We look to the Government for redressing our grievances. May be there were times when we had clamoured too much. But let me leave it to the good sense of Government. Even representation to our community in the legislature is not too much. If at all some member of our community enters this House, it is not due to any favour shown by Government but by some other methods. Even in the recent district board elections we have found that only in Malabar some of the Muslim community men were able to get seats. Therefore I am sure the Government of Madras will consider our case. But I once again repeat, if the present sort of treatment is meted out, the minorities could not enter our legislature in large numbers to ventilate their grievances. I do not believe in fighting. But I do appeal to Government to do what is just and proper to look after the welfare of our community and see that justice is rendered to us.

"With these words, I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for having given me this opportunity to speak."

* SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR:—"I welcome the very salient and bright features of the budget presented by the Hon. Finance Minister. The budget has been framed with a view to satisfy the object of taking the State forward towards the realisation of our cherished goal of Welfare State. Therefore it is that many of the irrigation projects have been financed. Especially, Sir, I welcome the large provision made available for minor irrigation works and tank improvement schemes. Especially last year and

28th February 1955]

[Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar]

the year before last, I made it a point to stress that minor irrigation works and tank improvement schemes were far more important and would yield very useful results rather than big irrigation projects. They are very useful and they are already constructed projects. I am glad, Sir, that the Government have made a fairly good contribution towards these minor irrigation projects. They have also contributed a good deal towards rural electrification. In fact our State has got the just pride of leading other States in the matter of rural electrification. Electrification of the rural areas has been in the forefront. Many of our Electrical Engineers and their services have been appreciated by other States in the Union, and our workers are also very efficient in their job. I am glad that most of our villages will be electrified in the year to come. They have also taken to the development of roads and the supply of water to rural areas. All these things are really very beneficial to the public. For achieving all these, the budget makes a substantial contribution.

3-50
p.m.

“As regards the deficit, the Government want to make up the deficit by new taxation measures. They propose to levy a flat surcharge of 2 annas in the rupee on land revenue on all holdings, big or small. The Finance Minister says in a very suggestive way that it may not be unduly burdensome. I feel, Sir, that he is conscious that it may be burdensome, but he says that it is not unduly burdensome. Land tax has been done to death in our State. There has been increased land surcharge, betterment levy, and every other tax only on land. Land surcharge was, I understand, based on the principle that bigger landholders should pay. There is already a land cess of two annas in the rupee. A surcharge of 2 annas in the rupee on the land cess is to be given to the local boards. The surcharge of 2 annas in the rupee on land revenue is also proposed to be given to the local boards. Education cess is a surcharge on land cess. Seeing all these taxes, I am afraid that the ryot in our country will shed tears. I am not exaggerating. To-day I had the good fortune or misfortune of meeting a number of ryots from Chingleput. They were all shocked to hear the proposal to levy a surcharge on land revenue. Is there any compelling necessity for a land tax to be imposed now on the ryots? When we take the ways and means figures, as given by the Finance Minister, we find that our requirements are Rs. 30 crores. In this he has included a revenue deficit of Rs. 116 lakhs. Five crores of rupees are on hand. The balance of Rs. 24 crores he hopes to get either by a contribution from the Central Government or by loans from the public. Why not this Rs. 75 lakhs be added to that? The figure will then be twenty-four crores and seventy-five lakhs of rupees. Why not this whole amount be got either by a contribution from the Centre or from the public? This is not a very big figure. After all for the purpose of getting Rs. 75 lakhs, the Government propose to levy a flat surcharge of two annas in the rupee on all holdings,

[Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar] [28th February 1955]

especially when they have not got the Taxation Enquiry Commission Report before them (whose report has not yet been finally published) and especially when we are on the eve of land reforms, the final conclusions of which we are not yet certain. At this juncture, I say that it is not right on the part of the Government to impose a further tax of 2 annas in the rupee on all holdings, rich or poor, small or big. For what purpose? It is to hand over the money to local bodies. Already when we passed the Local Boards Act, there were proposals for reorganising all the district boards. There was also the question whether taluk boards should be reconstituted or not. When all these things are not yet settled and when the district boards have not yet been organised, why should we give much more money to the local boards? We are not sure that the local boards will manage the funds properly.

“ I am glad to hear the statement by the Leader of the House that the local boards are the weakest links in our administration. (Interruption.) Because, this supports my argument. They are going to reorganise. I ask, Sir, are the Government going to give more money to the weaker link? Already we see every day in the newspapers that questions are decided in the municipal councils by an appeal to the Police. Faction is raging there. I do not think that this will be permanent and I hope it will all pass away. Why at this particular juncture we should hand over that money to the local boards, and why for that purpose we should tax the already heavily taxed ryots of our poor country? That is my submission. Our deficit is not a huge one. This deficit is part of our already existing deficit. To-day we are not attaching importance to the old and orthodox system of financing. Free scope is given for deficit financing everywhere. The Centre has deficit financing and almost all the States are having deficits, except Bombay which has a surplus. None of these States have resorted to taxation. I do not want that any tax should be imposed. I am not opposing this proposed surcharge because every taxation measure is unpopular. If taxation is necessary, and if the people who pay the taxes can bear that taxation, then certainly the Government are entitled to impose taxes for the purpose of achieving their ambition of a Welfare State. But that is not so. Already the Government have got a deficit. The ways and means requirements are to the extent of Rs. 40 crores, of which the Government have only Rs. 5 crores on hand. As I submitted earlier this surcharge on land is a burdensome levy and cannot be borne by the ryots. As I have very often stated, I have to enter my very emphatic protest against taxing the landholder. I would not call him ‘landholder’ in the ordinary sense of the term. He is not a landholder at all. He is only a ryot. Most of the ryots have got small holdings. In the composite State of Madras we had a thousand or so paying a land revenue of more than one thousand rupees. All our ryots are poor people. Therefore it is that I say that this levy will be an ‘unduly’ burdensome tax to adopt the phrase of our Finance Minister.

28th February 1955] [Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar]

“ In this connexion I forgot to mention one thing. I welcome the publication of the Tamil translation of the Finance Minister's speech. I do not find my colleague Mr. Gajapathy Nayagar here now. But I personally feel that the Tamil translation of his speech is very good. We should be accustomed to read these things in our own language. It is because we are not accustomed to do so that we feel that we are doing something strange. It is ^{4 p.m.} nothing of the kind. All the terms and phrases we should get accustomed to. There are rich possibilities in our language, Tamil. I know very well that all the terms can be freely used in our language. I know that very well. I am very happy that the Hon. the Finance Minister has broken the ice. For the first time, he has given a Tamil translation of his budget speech. Perhaps, there may be a demand for Malayalam and Kanarese translations also. I am not against Malayalam and Kanarese translations. I only want to say on this occasion that I am happy about the Tamil translation. Though this has no bearing on the budget proposal as such, I only wanted to make a passing reference to it and express my feelings of happiness about it.

“ So far as other matters are concerned, I welcome the budget proposal so far as it relates to education. I welcome the move of the Government and the Hon. the Finance Minister in declaring full-fee concession to all poor people whose income is below Rs. 1,200 per annum. This is really a good proposal. As regards elementary education, I wish to say a few words. A Committee has been appointed to go into matters connected with elementary education. So I do not wish to dilate upon it. However, as I have devoted some attention to the subject and as I am acquainted with the working of some of the elementary schools, I would very much like to say a few words. It is absolutely necessary that all these elementary schools should be converted into basic schools sooner or later. Our Government have declared that basic education is their objective. So far as basic education is concerned, it is not so popular as it ought to be because of some small hitches and difficulties here and there. A very influential and experienced Committee which considered the question has evolved the fundamental principles governing ideal and model basic education. We would do well to adopt the recommendations of that Committee. Without adopting those recommendations, free and compulsory education will not be of much use. Recently, I read a book by Dr. Anandakumaraswamy, 'Bugbear of illiteracy'. It has been pointed out therein that literacy, only when it is combined with real education of life, will be useful and good. Mere literacy alone will not be of any use, as it will turn out people to be arrogant and make them discuss unnecessary things and occupy themselves in useless activities. Only when literacy is combined with real craft education, it will yield good results. That is why I say that the principles governing basic education are very good. I hope that the Government will spend more money for this purpose. At present there are about 400 basic schools, I think.

[Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar] [28th February 1955]

This is not enough. We have to convert all the elementary schools into basic schools. I would like to take this opportunity to suggest that elementary education as a whole should be in the hands of the Government. This may appear as inconsistent with some of our principles with regard to other matters. But, so far as elementary education is concerned as it is the object of the State to give free and compulsory elementary education to all children in the State, I venture to suggest that it must be dealt with by the Government. It is the primary duty of the State to provide for free and compulsory elementary education. The outside agencies can only help the Government in this regard. The Government must take the full responsibility in this matter. Sir, I have always said, the University has always been saying and many eminent educationists have also been saying that education should not be in the hands of the local boards. I know how this subject has been managed by the local boards all these years. It is the considered opinion of all educationists that education should not be left to be dealt with by the local boards. I do not want to discuss this question further. So far as primary education is concerned, the State has got a responsibility.

"I now wish to touch upon another aspect of the question. The curriculum of studies must include religious and moral education. When I say this I do not want religious education of a particular denomination. I want that a spirit of godliness, faith in God, love of charity and morality should be inculcated in the students even in the early stages. By so doing, I do not think we will be offending the provisions of the Constitution. That is why I am making this personal suggestion, Sir.

"As for other matters, I wish to point out that more and more money should be spent on converting all elementary schools into basic schools. It will be much better to spend money on this purpose rather than on opening new elementary schools. Government's attempt must be in the direction of opening more and more basic schools and basic training centres. Sir, my hon. Friend Sri G. Krishnamurthy has always been urging that the status of the teachers must be improved. True, it has to be done. But, it is not possible to give all the teachers an improved status. Therefore, it is much better to employ part-time teachers, especially married women. Married women can very well take up this work as a part-time job as they have been doing in the good old pial-school days. If this is done we can have ideal basic schools maintained on an almost self-sufficiency basis. At any rate, the expenses in running these schools could be reduced to a certain extent by adopting this suggestion of mine.

"Having said this much on education, I now wish to refer to public health. I am very sorry to observe that only a very small amount has been provided under this head. For the provision of increased number of beds in the various hospitals, the Government have provided a very meagre sum. Public health is as

28th February 1955] [Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar]

important if not more, as food, clothing, electricity and so on. Our ideal should be to provide every village with a dispensary. (Interruption.) It is for eminent doctors to say. I only want to suggest that the Government must spend a larger sum on public health.

“ Sir, I now wish to make a few observations regarding the indigenous system of medicine. Though even as early as 1924 the Madras Government under the wise guidance of the Raja of Panagal declared it as their policy to encourage the indigenous system of medicine, I am sorry to say that it has not developed. At that time there was intense opposition to it. But still, with commendable obstinacy and ability the Raja of Panagal carried through the programme and encouraged the indigenous system of medicine. Now, Sir, we are beginning to discuss the comparative merits of the indigenous and the allopathic systems of medicine. They are beside the point and if we discuss it, it is only sidetracking the issue. None could question the utility of modern medicine. It has remarkable achievement to its credit and has wonderful cures. Nobody can dispute it and say it is unnecessary. But, Sir, in our country, for long ages together, we have had a rich store of knowledge and experience of medicinal herbs of great value. (Sri A. M. Allapichai: ‘ They are being exported.’) Yes. They are scattered all over the country and we have this knowledge from father to son and even women know something about these cures. It is fast ebbing away and all these herbs are going out of our country. Now, even our women do not know anything about these very ordinary cures. They have forgotten them. When their children get sick, they rush to the hospitals nowadays. It was not so in olden days. The old woman in the family used to come to our relief when we feel sick. Now, for everything one has to go to the hospital. Sir, the other day one eminent doctor said—I read this in the newspapers—‘ Let us bury all this knowledge and let us build on the foundations of modern medicine here’. That is a statement to which I strongly object. It is not correct. It is not true. It is an intolerant statement. All cures belong to one system of medicine. The aspects of treatment may be different but medicine like religions, which have all only one object of the realisation of godliness, belongs to one system. It is, therefore, unnecessary to talk about one system as against another. I am constrained to refer to all this, because in the College of Indigenous Medicine, the authorities have reduced the number of teaching hours allotted for Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani on the principle which has also been adverted to recently by Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar. He has said that he and the Hon. the Minister for Health both took the courageous step—as he calls it—of introducing modern medicine in the College of Indigenous Medicine. Is that a correct academic proposition? You will be turning out doctors who are not really Ayurvedic doctors. You will turn out people who will neither be Ayurvedic doctors nor persons satisfying the

4-10
p.m.

[Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar] [28th February 1955]

standards of proficiency prescribed for allopathic doctors. You have unnecessarily created ambitions in the minds of students and you now see that they have applied to the Government for their classification as medical men in the Indian Medical Council Register. That will be so. Why not I also be called a doctor? There are standards fixed for a good allopathic doctor and no allopathic doctor will say that the curriculum of studies included in the syllabus of the College of Indigenous Medicine is good. So the product of that college is neither an allopath nor one qualified fully in the indigenous systems of medicine. If any expert disputes this statement, I accept it. I am layman. What is the use of giving some kind of tuition in modern medicine at the sacrifice of a knowledge of the Indian systems of medicine? The Government should not take sides when we discuss these matters. Their only anxiety should be to see that people have got proper cures for their diseases. Let them encourage all systems of medicine. We cannot have a single system of medicine and be done with it. It is a matter for the doctors to think of a synthesis of medicines. It must be left to the eminent doctors in our country to investigate and finally decide upon the synthesis of Indian medicine. That cannot be done by a G.O. But it is better on the whole to preserve the vast knowledge we have got of these Indian systems of medicine. Sir, did we not hear the other day of a former house surgeon of a city hospital here discovering certain medicinal herbs which have got an insulating effect to electric shocks when smeared all over the body? A correspondent from Saurashtra got that news and it was published in 'The Hindu'. We have got so many similar things with us and it is better to investigate and preserve knowledge of these for the benefit of mankind. We have got also modern discoveries and inventions. For instance, to-day every building is constructed with cement and mortar. We cannot say therefore that we do not want the old granite buildings built long ago. Let us have the new ones also along with the old ones and let both combine together and get rid of disease in the country. Let the Government take steps to establish schools and colleges of Indian Medicine in order to preserve our knowledge of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani. I have got personal experience of these. Many of the cures effected with these are very effective. Sir, the Hon. the Minister for Public Health said the other day 'they are believed to be effective'. He was very careful in his choice of words. No, Sir. There is no question of mere belief. Possibly he meant 'mental cure'. That is, he probably thought, when a man believes he will be cured and takes it, he will be cured. It is not so. In my opinion, our medicines have been found to be very effective in very many cases. Also, they are cheaper. For example, let us take the disease, cirrhosis of the liver. There were very many medicines in olden days which could cure this disease and several others. The famous Jammi Venkataramanayya made large sums of money only with the receipt he prepared for the treatment of this disease. Then take

28th February 1955] [Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar]

the famous LODHRA (An hon. Member: 'Kesari Kuteeram?') Yes. It was sent and is being sent to places like America also for treating female diseases. So, Sir, this subject needs to be further studied and investigated.

"Sir, I would now like to urge on the Government the necessity to solve two important problems that face us to-day. One is about the small and cottage industries. I am glad that the Hon. the Finance Minister in his speech said that cottage industries should be encouraged. When we are going ahead with a big scheme of rural electrification and when electricity is to be supplied to all the villages in our State, it is high time that we looked into the possibilities of developing cottage industries. To-day, cottage industries are languishing for market and for patronage. I wish that the Government appoint a small cottage industries commission at the present juncture to go into the whole question and see how these can be preserved and developed. My friend, Mr. T. M. Deivasigamani Achariar, who is very enthusiastic about cottage industries, will, I am sure, support me when I say that a small committee should be appointed to see how the industry should be preserved and developed.

"Lastly, Sir, I come to the problem of unemployment. Recently, the hon. the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and I had an occasion to discuss this problem at a conference held in Triplicane. We were appalled at the enormity of the problem of unemployment which is stalking our land. Any problem that is solved at once gives rise to more unemployment. When Prohibition was introduced, it threw the tappers out of employment. Similarly, whenever we try to solve a problem, it increases the number of the unemployed. In a way, our present system of education itself has been responsible for unemployment among the educated classes. Even now, persons sent abroad, to places like America, do not get any employment on their return. Their knowledge is not used by anybody. It is much better if we publish statistics of unemployed people, as they do in other countries. In other countries, they have solved the problem of unemployment. In America, it is totally abolished. No person is unemployed there. The Government should undertake some kind of investigation for the purpose of tackling this problem and it must be attacked on all fronts. Here I wish to refer to one another matter. For Pongal we whitewash our compound wall, as we used to do, and we find one fine morning any amount of scurrilous writing on the wall disfiguring it. I do not want to give too much publicity to it, by speaking elaborately about it in this House. The Leader of the Opposition also referred a year ago to this sort of disfiguring of walls. I would appeal to Government to see to it that this sort of scurrilous writing is prevented. This sort of scurrilous writing is particularly intended to injure a particular section, who are citizens of this State. I would earnestly appeal to Government to see whether this could not be prevented. Especially after we whitewash our walls for Pongal, as is the

4-20
p.m.

[Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar] [28th February 1955]

custom amongst Hindus, opportunity is taken to disfigure the walls by scurrilous writing, mainly intended to promote hatred among the citizens of our State. It is up to the Welfare State to put a stop to this. With these words, I thank you, Sir, for the indulgence you gave me and I submit that this is a concrete budget which aims at the realization of a Welfare State."

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" After listening to the sober and encouraging speeches of the two hon. Members of the Opposition, I believe the members on this side may not have much to say except to express concurrence with most of the things expressed so far by Hon. Members opposite. We are glad that the Opposition in this House is not opposing any measure merely for the sake of opposition, but on the other hand they give constructive suggestions so much necessary for good administration. We are grateful to the Opposition for the encouraging and constructive criticism they have made and we certainly agree with most of the views expressed by the two hon. Members.

" I congratulate the Government on the successful working of the First Five-Year Plan. The budget gives a vivid picture of the progress made by Government in all departmental activities. Of course as was stated by the Hon. Whip of the Opposition there is, I should admit, a sense of disappointment that we have to face a deficit budget and that it is proposed to levy a surcharge of 2 annas in the rupee on land revenue in respect of all lands including water-rates. This will work as a great hardship on the agriculturists who are faced with the problem of fall in the agricultural prices. That this additional revenue would go to save local bodies from financial crisis is certainly no consolation to the landowner. I hope the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Commission, who would also have gone into the question of local finance, would be considered because its report would be before us in a few days. (The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam : ' We hope to have it to-day. ') The Hon. Finance Minister says it will come to-day, and I therefore hope that it will be possible for us to reconsider this question of levy of surcharge on land revenue as it appears to me to be most inopportune at this moment.

" I should repudiate the charge made by the Hon. Whip of the Opposition that local bodies are not functioning properly. This is an unfair charge. The local bodies are doing their best with their limited finance. There is also the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts who goes very carefully and deeply into the working of these local bodies. I may assure hon. Members that the money collected by these local bodies is not being wasted as stated by some. Sir, it has been pointed out that the local bodies form the weakest link in our administration. I may inform the House that it is because they are financially bankrupt they should be helped and it is up to the Government and the Legislature to see that this weakest link in our administrative machinery is made the strongest link by all possible help to enable them to render efficient service. I am indeed sorry that there is no reference at all

28th February 1955] [Sri T. Purushotham]

in the budget proposals to any progressive reform of the local bodies. Local bodies reorganization committees were appointed but nothing has been done so far. I hope the Government will take swift action to introduce necessary reforms for developing the local bodies. The question of formation of municipalities should engage the attention of the Government. There are definite principles laid down that municipalities should be formed on the basis of population and on the revenue position of the local areas. Based on that standard many of our present panchayats should be formed into municipalities. I do not know why the Government have not taken steps to convert some of the big panchayats into municipalities and I hope the Government will take necessary action about it. Sri K. Balasubramania Ayyar has said that elementary education should be taken away from the control of local bodies. Here again if 'education' had not been effectively administered by the local bodies, it is because of their meagre finance.

"I am, however, one with my hon. Friend Sri K. Balasubramania Ayyar in this that all elementary schools should be nationalized and should be made Governmental institutions as early as possible. If at all any progress in elementary education is to be achieved, I say it most emphatically that we should take the earliest steps to see that all our elementary schools are nationalized as early as possible.

4-30
p.m.

"The hon. Whip of the Opposition referred to the question of retrenchment in Government departments. Hon. Members are aware that I have always pleaded that there should be a thorough overhauling of the Government Departments. Several intermediary posts such as Divisional Inspector of Schools, Deputy Directors of Agriculture, Deputy Directors in other Departments, etc., should be cut down. The Government are continuing these unnecessary posts. The mounting cost of establishment should be brought down. I feel and I say it with a certain amount of authority based on personal knowledge that it would be possible to effect at least 10 per cent saving that way. I would emphatically plead that this should be done.

"Let me now refer to some of these departments. Sir, the Prohibition work has been transferred to the Police Department recently. And what do we find? We are having a number of officers, one set of officers for enforcement of Prohibition under the Police Department, another set of officers for licensing under the Revenue Department, and a third set for amelioration work under the Co-operative Department. There should be co-ordinated agency for all items of work connected with prohibition and also decentralization of the duties. The Collectors could certainly be authorized to grant permits on definite rules laid down by Government. These papers need not come to the Board of Revenue and then the Government need not pass orders granting these licences. The other day it was brought to the notice of this House that for giving Government advertisements to newspapers, a central system

[Sri T. Purushotham] [28th February 1955]

is in vogue and that all advertisements should be sent by the Heads of Departments to Government. A Government Order has been placed on the table of the House which shows that there is a pretty large staff to attend to this work in the Secretariat. (Interruption.) It is stated in the Government Order that special staff has been sanctioned for the purpose. Here is again a case for decentralization. Certainly the Heads of Departments could be trusted to give the advertisements to all the newspapers by turns according to definite principles laid down by Government and from the list of newspapers furnished by Government.

"I may refer to another instance of possible retrenchment of staff. Take for instance, the Collector of Madras. He has only limited executive jurisdiction, just to inspect a few areas in Madras City. He has no extensive jurisdiction. He was Paymaster of Carnatic Stipends and Superintendent of Stationery and he had several other auxiliary duties. Now there is a separate post of Controller of Stationery and Printing. The Collector of Madras may as well be appointed as Accommodation Controller, in addition to his other duties. There is no need for a separate post of Accommodation Controller and a senior I.A.S. Officer need not be posted to that work.

"Let me also mention, Sir, that there are similar unnecessary posts in several other departments of Government. Such unnecessary posts should be axed. I do not see why there should be posts of Consulting Engineers in the Electricity Department. I find there are two such posts. There is no such post in the Public Works Department. There is no such post in the Irrigation Department. There is no such post in the Highways Department."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"Sir, I may tell the hon. Member that Sir Henry Howard was the Consulting Engineer for a long number of years in the Electricity Department."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM:—"There are now two posts in the Electricity Department. The posts of Consulting Engineers in the Electricity Department are nothing but the fifth wheel in the coach and I particularly emphasize that the posts should be abolished.

"Having referred to a few items of retrenchment, I am glad, Sir, that on going through the Budget one finds that the Governor has effected a voluntary cut of Rs. 9,900 annually in his pay. I refer to this because there is an obsession in the minds of some people that the Governors of Indian States are too highly paid. In the Madras State at least, it seems to me that this is a first rate misnomer. There appears to be an impression that the Governor of Madras takes ten lakhs of rupees as his salary annually as I found it recently published in one of the Madras dailies, and that he spends it just as he likes. The Governor is of course, given liberal allowances, but he cannot spend all the money just

28th February 1955] [Sri T. Purushotham]

as he wishes. There are audits and checks. He cannot take a pie to be spent on himself, but has to spend that money on about four thousand employees of the *Raj Bhavan*, both here and in Ootacamund, not to speak of the public entertainments and several parties he has to arrange. We have in the Madras Governor Sri Sri Prakasa, a person who is very economical, for I find that he has not even a Military Secretary, a post which carried a salary of Rs. 1,500 per month. He has instead only a Comptroller of his Household on Rs. 800. I think we ought to be grateful to the Governor for all this economy.

"I am glad, Sir, that in the budget proposals the Government servants have received some consideration and that their leave rules would be liberalized. I hope this will be extended to local boards and municipal employees as well.

"Sir, I have referred on another occasion to Article 309 of the Constitution of India providing that an Act of appropriate legislature should be there, to regulate the recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connexion with the affairs of the State. No legislation has so far been brought forward and I would therefore urge for necessary steps to be taken to ensure contented and efficient public service by framing suitable statutory provision on liberalized basis to govern the recruitment and conditions of public service.

"I should like to mention in this connexion that appointments to the gazetted posts in the Educational Department which are to be made by promotion are kept for the past four or five years on a temporary basis. The reason for not making regular appointments is stated to be the delay in combining the Women's and Men's Branches and drawing up a common seniority list for the Subordinate Service. That this delay has been there for five years is not conducive to efficiency, because the subordinates do not get regular promotions, are not allowed to commence probation, and do not get their increments, etc. Discontent prevails and they throw up their hands in despair with a sense of frustration. The Hon. the Minister for Finance, who is also in charge of Education, presumably because he is having more portfolios than one, is not able to attend to this. We should certainly have a separate Minister for Education. But in the Hon. Mr. Subramaniam we have an energetic Minister who can with ease take over even more portfolios and I have every hope that when these matters are brought to his notice, he will take the speediest action possible. It is in that view I have made a reference to this subject.

"Taking next the Government Transport Department, fortunately, the Hon. Minister for Transport is present here, Sir, this Department is kept on as a temporary Department for the last seven years. There is a Government Order which says that if a department has been there on a temporary basis for five years, steps should be taken to make that Department permanent. Why

[Sri T. Purushotham] [28th February 1955]

has this not been applied in the case of this Department is not clear. Orders making the Department permanent and the incumbents should be issued and it is no credit to Government that the Department has been kept on a temporary basis for more than five years now.

4-40
p.m.

“ The other day, I referred to the delay in filling up posts of Medical officers in hospitals and dispensaries. Such delays should be minimized by temporary appointment of doctors in all vacancies as soon as medical students complete their House Surgeoncy of 9 months' duration after taking degree. If necessary, to encourage graduates to serve wherever they are posted for temporary service, it may be made a rule that a candidate for regular appointment should have served for six months at least as a paid Civil Assistant Surgeon in a local fund dispensary, rural dispensary or Government Hospital as a qualification for selection for regular appointment. Now, service as House Surgeons—paid Rs. 30 or so or unpaid I am not sure—is an essential qualification for recruitment as Civil Assistant Surgeon. Temporary service for six months may be prescribed as an additional qualification. Engineering Graduates—Civil, Mechanical or Electrical—as soon as they finish their course in the State colleges get appointments temporarily first, before regular recruitment. The same system may be followed in the Medical Department as well.

“ Sir, there is a public feeling that in the matter of recruitment to public services and admission to colleges, candidates not belonging to Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes manage to get in by obtaining the prescribed community certificates from Revenue Divisional Officers to the detriment of Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes candidates. The certificates are, of course, signed by the Revenue Divisional Officers who issue them. The signature of the Revenue Divisional Officer would indicate the authenticity of the person's claims to belong to the community—Backward Class or Scheduled Caste. Actually, however, it is found that in several cases, the person claiming to belong to the Backward Class is not a Backward Class person. So also in the case of Scheduled Castes. That is because, the actual verification of the claim is left to the Revenue Inspector, and there is no further enquiry or verification of the particulars furnished by the candidate. The report of the Revenue Inspector is forwarded by the Tahsildar to the Revenue Divisional Officer who issues the certificates. The Government should issue instructions enjoining on the Revenue Divisional Officer the responsibility for scrutinizing carefully the claims before issuing certificates, so that spurious claims may be checked. Strict measures should be adopted to prevent such irregularities. I feel it is a great pity that people actually belonging to Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes are made to suffer by such tactics on the part of some.

“ Having said all this about public services, I now wish to refer to some of the welfare schemes. Taking first irrigation, as my

28th February 1955]

[Sri T. Purushotham]

Friend Sri Raza Khan said, it is a matter for regret that the dispute between the Madras Government and the Mysore Government regarding the utilization of the waters of the Palar river has not yet been settled. This morning the Hon. Minister for Public Works visited the All-India Congress Exhibition where the models of the various Irrigation schemes that are in progress and that are to be introduced are displayed in the Irrigation Section. But I am sorry to point out that there is not even one scheme to cover the Chingleput and the North Arcot districts. Hon. Members are doubtless aware of the conference of ryots recently held at Kaveripakkam where the question of supply of freshes in the Palar river was considered. This was dealt with at length by the hon. Sri Omandur Ramaswami Reddier in this House on a former occasion. This controversy of sharing of Palar waters between Madras and Mysore regions has been pending for a long time. From the newspaper reports it is seen that the Mysore Legislature has of late been discussing this question. The Madras Government should take our Legislature into their confidence and place all papers before us so that backed by the views of the State Legislature the Union Government may be addressed for an early solution of this problem. Apart from that question, I am reminded that the construction of a storage reservoir across Palar in a suitable site above Ranipet was actually contemplated, so that Palar water to the extent available might be stored and let down according to needs below. This was investigated and a reservoir was proposed to be constructed at Kuppam some time back. The Hon. Minister for Agriculture knows more about it as I know he himself initiated it and several irrigation schemes in this State. A suitable site at Ambur or Vaniambadi may be selected as Kuppam is now in the Andhra State. There are several reserved forests in that area and a storage reservoir may be put up there. So also the construction of a supply channel from Palar with a reservoir across the river or an anicut near Kancheepuram to supply Tenneri and Cheruvambakkam tanks in Chingleput district was actively considered. Some rough investigation has been done by the present Chief Engineer for Irrigation when he was the Superintending Engineer. These schemes that I have referred to here should be taken up and definite proposals should be called for from the Chief Engineer and included in the Second Five-Year Plan. It is disheartening to see that the Chembarabakkam tank is not even one-third full in spite of the recent rains. The Hon. the Revenue Minister visited the Chembarabakkam tank yesterday and saw for himself and noted how such a big tank has no water practically and how it would be in summer may be guessed. Steps should be taken urgently to investigate the cause of low water level in the tank and institute remedial schemes. I hope that this and the other scheme that I have referred to just now for improving the irrigational facilities of Chingleput and North Arcot districts will receive the Government's earnest attention and consideration.

[Sri T. Purushotham]

[28th February 1955]

" Sir, I congratulate the Government on their policy of expansion of rural electricity in this State. The Electricity Department has it is pleasing to note committed itself to a target of 1,000 villages and 10,000 pumpsets per year. This objective it must be observed is not being implemented in full due to lines having been laid and parties not availing of supply. In short, the number of 'unconnected agricultural services' is perpetually on the increase. The ryots do not have the financial resources to install a pumpset even though supply is made available. The Government have to go half-way and supply pumpsets, etc., for the agricultural purposes on suitable long-term hire-purchase system. This aspect is now being looked into by the Agricultural Department. As a matter of co-ordination between the Electricity and Agricultural Departments, I suggest that the Electricity Department takes up this question of supply of pumpsets, etc., to the agriculturists and sees that connexions are given soon after the supply is extended. This will go a long way in making the electrical extensions earn revenue as well. Better co-ordination will be achieved if the loans for purchase of electrical pumpsets for the agriculturists are arranged to be given by the Electricity Department.

" There is one other matter to which I wish to refer and that is the problem of village communications. This ought to receive urgent attention. Villagers feel that whereas highway roads are improved and black-topped entirely out of Government funds, the formation of village roads is left to the villagers to be taken up on half-grant basis, the other half to be met by the villagers. The villagers are not able to go ahead with these schemes and the District Boards as we all know are financially crippled and are unable to render any assistance in the formation of the village roads. May I not in all earnestness appeal to the State Government to assist these schemes with one-fourth grant to supplement Central Government grant, even if it should involve putting off the improvement of major roads.

4-50
P.m.

" The Hon. Finance Minister has stated in his budget speech that Rs. 50 lakhs will be utilized for black-topping stretches of State Highways. I earnestly urge for the consideration of Government that priority should be given to village communications with the available amounts, and the black-topping schemes should be put off for the present.

" It is happy to note that every village will have a school ere long under the budgeted scheme. The Government should also draw up a comprehensive scheme of rural medical service. The Hon. Finance Minister just now said that there would be no need for rural dispensaries, if on account of the introduction of protected water-supply, we are able to improve health and sanitation of our villages. But I would particularly refer, Sir, to the problem, which even a protected water-supply would not cure, namely, maternity. There is need for starting maternity homes on a planned basis in

28th February 1955] [Sri T. Purushotham]

rural areas. Any amount of money allotted for this purpose would not be spent in vain and the Government should utilize the services of voluntary social organizations for pushing up schemes of this kind.

“ Sir, let me in passing refer to the beggar problem. The beggar problem should receive greater attention and I trust that the Second Five-Year Plan would lay greater stress on such social problems and that effective steps would be taken to enforce the Madras Prevention of Begging Act by providing Beggar Homes at least in municipal towns.

“ There are very few schools for defectives in our country. The improvement of existing institutions in this State is of paramount importance. Presiding over the anniversary of the Government School for Blind, Poonamallee, the former Chief Minister Sri C. Rajagopalachari stressed the State's responsibility in the matter. It was stated then that a scheme for reorganization of the school was in the offing. I searched for the same in the list of Part II Schemes in the Budget but no provision, I find, has been made for this. The Blind School should be improved and an industrial training section to teach crafts to the blind should be started to train the students in various crafts. I trust the Government would move in the matter at once and they should also take advantage of the visit of Dr. Helen Keller to this city and discuss with her the ways and means of improving the School for Blind at Poonamallee.

“ Lastly, I would appeal to the Hon. Chairman to organize a Legislators' Association, so that there might be opportunities for general discussions and social contacts among the State legislators. Study circles and group consultations also may be encouraged and I hope, Sir, if we have such an organization it would be possible to ensure a healthy spirit of camaraderie and efficient discharge of our duties as legislators.

“ Thank you, Sir.”

* SRI M. P. GOVINDA MENON :—“ Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am glad that the mistake which was committed last year is not repeated this year. You will remember, Sir, after the whole Budget was discussed and the Demands were voted by the Assembly last year—and even after the Appropriation Bill was passed by the Assembly—we were given an opportunity to discuss the Budget proposals. It was not only a *post-mortem* examination but was post-burial examination and we did protest against this attitude of the Government towards the Council. (The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam : ‘ It was not last year, but the year before the last.’) Yes. This year, we have simultaneous sittings for discussing the Budget proposals and I am thankful to the Government to the extent they have provided this facility.

“ Sir, in the general discussion of the Budget, you will pardon me if I am a little parochial in my remarks and refer to the

[Sri M. P. Govinda Menon]

[28th February 1955]

conditions obtaining in my district of Malabar, because this is the only opportunity and occasion when I can freely ventilate the grievances of the people of my district. Let me begin with an offer of congratulations and thanks to the Government, for, the other day, the Hon. Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam, had the courtesy to visit the livestock farm in Thiruvazhakunnu in the district of Malabar and I had the opportunity and the time to accompany him on that visit. I am glad that there is a proposal in the present Budget to construct residential quarters for the staff employed in the farm. Barring that I feel that my district has been completely, thoroughly and systematically neglected. I am afraid, we are considered uninvited guests here. We are treated as persons who have no right to exist. Sir, if you go through the Budget from one end to the other, you will find Malabar is conspicuous by absence in regard to provision of beneficial schemes. I am glad that Mr. Narasappayya also feels with me, but unfortunately for him, he is a victim and a virtual prisoner in the hands of the Congress party. Though he touches his heart, he cannot ventilate his grievances here. But, I ask: So long as we are here and until such time as we go out of the State of Madras, is it not the duty of the Government to treat us generously, equally and justly? The hon. Members, Mr. Balasubramania Ayyar and Mr. Purushotham were dealing with rural electrification schemes proposed in the Budget for this State. But what about Malabar? Sir, if you travel through villages in Malabar, you will see electricity is conspicuously absent. If you cross the Western Ghats and see the villages you will find that the Treasury Bench here does not recognize any area on the other side of the Western Ghats as forming part of the Madras State. When I travel by the Malabar Express and get into the eastern side of the Western Ghats and reach Podanur, I really begin to feel jealous of the position Tamilnad holds. Of course, a paltry provision has been made in the Budget for supplying electricity to Badagara. Perhaps there is some individual over there who has some position in the Congress and some pull with the Government and perhaps to satisfy this individual, the Government have made this paltry provision of some six or seven thousand rupees. Throughout Malabar, you will find no electrification at all. I know my cry is only a cry in the wilderness. There is no representation for Malabar in the Cabinet either. I do not belong to the Congress party and it is for the members of the Congress party from Malabar to agitate for a seat in the Cabinet. But what I mean to point out is, if there is one representative of Malabar in the Cabinet, he would use his influence and see that the Government do some justice to Malabar. The Hon. the Leader of the House is looking at me and his look suggests, 'any way, you are going away'. It may be, Sir, we are going away. But so long as we are here, are not the Government bound to give us what they are giving the rest of the State? Sir, the Hon. Sri Kamaraja Nadar is not here. It is unfortunate. When he was touring the district of Malabar, some press representatives asked him, 'what about

28th February 1955] [Sri M. P. Govinda Menon]

representation in the Cabinet for Malabar?'. He said, 'I am your representative'. Is this the kind of representation we have? God save us from Mr. Kamaraja Nadar! Nothing more, I can say. We do not want doles. The people of Malabar were formerly warriors. They can stand on their own legs. They will face any calamity. 5 p.m. Let me utter this warning to the Government. To whom are you going to hand over Malabar? To persons who are not desirables. Of course the Hon. Mr. Bhaktavatsalam says that during the 1952 elections I went to support the Communists. It was not as if I swerved from the constructive principles of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, in which organization I have worked for 30 years. I took that stand in 1952 because I thought that the Congress organization, which had swerved from Congress principles, should be taught a lesson. Malabar may fall into, undesirable hands. But what about adjacent Tamilnad? Do you think Tamilnad could be safe from that menace? Is not that disease contagious? Will it not affect Tamilnad and spread its wings once it seizes power in Malabar? Will it not pass over the Western Ghats and spread to Tamilnad? That is why I say let Tamilnad people think twice or thrice before they give this sort of treatment to Malabar and thus expose it to undesirable elements. Once that element catches hold of Malabar, it will not be long before it catches hold and that too firmly, of Tamilnad, because it is a contagious disease. Mr. Chairman, I am rather feeling very strongly on this question and that is why I am speaking with some feeling. If I have exceeded the bounds of moderation of language, I hope I may be pardoned.

"In the budget presented to us there is the confession of the colossal failure of the First Five-Year Plan. Of course there are figures running to crores as to what has been done. They are there on paper. But I do not think the effect of this plan has been felt in the countryside, I mean particularly in the villages. It has been a colossal failure. Of course I belong to a party wedded to principles. My party's strength may be small but I am proud of the fact that we are wedded to principles. I am one of those who will in toto support everyone of the constructive principles enunciated by the Father of the Nation. But let it be understood that the cardinal principle of planning is that it should start from the bottom and then go upwards and not begin from the top and go to the bottom as is now sought to be done under the First Five-Year Plan. It must be a plan of the people starting from the villages. I am glad at least in the Second Five-Year Plan that object has been recognized by the Hon. Finance Minister, as has been indicated in the budget speech. He has said that the broad outlines of the Second Five-Year Plan must be drawn up at the district level. What I say is it must be at the village level. It is good to start from the villages or districts. We must start from the bottom and then go upwards. That has not been done in the First Five-

[Sri M. P. Govinda Menon]

[28th February 1955]

Year Plan and so it has ended in a colossal failure. At least in the Second Five-Year Plan, I think Government will seriously consider taking the people into confidence at the village and district levels. Let the plan be decentralized so that it may be acceptable to the people in the villages. That should be the constructive approach. I am one of those who will in toto support everyone of the constructive principal enunciated by the Father of the Nation. I am a firm believer in his constructive programme. But what is done by Government in the name of implementing that programme is only a mockery of it.' I do hope at least in the Second Five-Year Plan, the plan might be directed from the bottom, that is from the village and then taken up, and spread to urban areas.

" I shall now come to the subject of local boards. As has been pointed out by Mr. Purushotham, again it is a question of finance. For want of adequate finance, the local bodies have not been functioning properly. You do not give the local bodies power. Let autonomy be given to the local bodies. Give them sufficient power. The successful working of local bodies in Western countries and especially in the United Kingdom is due to their having been clothed with sufficient powers. If you want our local bodies to come to the level of local bodies in Western countries wherein you have a dignified form of democratic Government, it is absolutely essential that they should be given sufficient powers; in their respective field they should be given autonomy. Mark out the fields for them and do not interfere with them in their respective fields of administration. Let them be given autonomy; let them be self-governing independent units, just as they are in Western countries. If this is not done, I do not think our local bodies could come to the forefront. If this is not done, there is no use of helping the local bodies only with money.

" The hon. Member, Mr. K. Balasubramania Ayyar, has referred to the subject of elementary education. I think as Mr. Balasubramania Ayyar has said the time has come when the subject of 'elementary education' should be taken over by the State from the local bodies. There should be nationalization of elementary education. I think Madras should make a beginning by nationalizing elementary schools. Anyhow you are paying the teachers in Government schools. For the aided schools, you give grant. Therefore when you are spending money for the sake of teachers, I do not think there would be any difficulty if you make a beginning by nationalizing all elementary schools. Let a beginning be made in that direction. Why leave the subject of elementary education to local and private bodies and then give them grants? I do not think there would be any harm in the State stepping in and nationalizing all elementary schools? After all, are you not told under the Constitution that within 10 years from the commencement of the Constitution, the State should endeavour to give free and compulsory education to all children between the ages of 7 and 14? Where are we now? We are in 1955. Five years

28th February 1955]

[Sri M. P. Govinda Menon]

have rolled by since the commencement of our Constitution. To fulfil the directive in the Constitution, should we not make a beginning at least after five years have elapsed? Is it not the duty of the State to give education to all citizens. Even as far back as 1832, when the Reform Bill was introduced in England there was a cry in Parliament, viz., 'Educate our masters'. Have we educated our masters? These children, these masters are going to be the future citizens of India, who will shape its history. Therefore if you do not educate our masters, I mean the children of to-day, if you do not give all the citizens proper education, woe unto the freedom which you have got. It is absolutely necessary to give compulsory and free education to all our citizens. I hope that the Government would seriously consider what I have said. Let me hope that Mr. C. Subramaniam, now that he is present here, will seriously consider what I have said and make a beginning by nationalizing all our elementary schools.

"The subject of 'basic education' has been referred to by the hon. Member, Mr. Balasubramania Ayyar. I am a confirmed believer in the type of basic education envisaged by Mahatma Gandhi. Of course there was a resolution on 'basic education' at the Avadi Congress. We have some basic schools in our State. We have some basic belts, so to say, in our State. I myself come from one such basic belt. But let me boldly say that the type of basic education taught in the basic schools in the area from which I come is a mockery of the 'true basic education' conceived by Gandhi. There are no tools in the schools, no instruments; the teachers are not sufficiently trained. With this background, it is a waste to convert ordinary schools into such basic schools. I say it is a crime against Mahatma Gandhi's basic education. It is a shame to call the education in those schools as 'basic education'. I was attracted towards Rajaji's new elementary education scheme. But that has been thrown to the winds. We have now a committee to review the question of elementary education in our State. From the very nature of the questionnaire, I feel some such thing as 'a mountain laboured and brought forth a mouse' will result in the case of this committee. That is what I have got to say. In conclusion let me say if you want to convert all schools into basic ones, do it by all means on proper lines. Let it not be a mockery on basic education. If you are not able to impart true basic education, put to a stop to it but for God's sake don't do anything which is a mockery on the basic education envisaged by the Father of the Nation.

"I looked into the taxation proposals from two standpoints, viz., first of all whether you are justified in coming by with the taxation proposals at the present juncture. I do not think that any Government could go on without taxation. I do believe that for the functioning of a Welfare State, we should have some sort of new taxation; but you should not think of taxation before effecting

[Sri M. P. Govinda Menon] [28th February 1955]

retrenchment and effecting as much economy as possible in the administrative machinery. Mr. Purushotham has already referred to it. You have inherited a top-heavy, over-centralized administration. You have not effected any retrenchment, for which there is scope, in the unwieldy administration."

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAJ :—" There will be more unemployment, then."

5-10
p.m.

* SRI M. P. GOVINDA MENON :—" If the Government want to relieve unemployment among the people and, therefore, they are creating posts, I say, Sir, that is not sound economics. We want to solve the unemployment problem by having unnecessary posts! (Interruption.) That is not the way to deal with the problem. But what has been done? There is the over-centralized, archaic and ante-diluvian administrative machinery of Revenue Board. What is its function? I can understand the bureaucratic Government centralizing all power in one body consisting of all superannuated I.C.S. officers. But now there is democracy. In this body I do not want to see the examples mentioned by the hon. Member Sri T. Purushotham. Sri Purushotham has helped me by saying that there are many unnecessary posts in Government departments. He says that if there is a Director in one department, he has got his Assistant Director, Deputy Director, Sub-Assistant Director and so on. So many unnecessary appointments are there carrying fat salaries. The amount which the Government may be able to save by retrenchment may not be much, but it is only a token to show to the people, 'I have done so much. Come and help with fresh taxes'. Have the Government done that? What right have the Government to come forward with taxation measures? The Government propose to levy a tax on tobacco. If the cigarettes that I and the Hon. Chairman smoke are taxed, I do not mind. But why should the Government go to the lowest level and tax even the poorest of men? Men in the villages smoke cheap cigarettes so that they may get relief from their work. But the Government want to tax the cheapest cigarette. The Government may tax luxurious articles. But if they go to the lowest level, I say it will be a great hardship on the poor people. In these days of Prohibition when we want to wean away people from greater vices, why not we allow some small vice so that there may not be the incentive to take to greater vices? I hope the Finance Minister will reconsider his taxation proposal. I am not against taxing tobacco as such, but I am against taxing the poor people.

" Then, Sir, I come to the question of the surcharge of two annas in the rupee on land revenue. This is the last straw on the camel's back. What has happened to the Treasury Bench, Sir? Have they no imagination? As my hon. Friend Sri Balasubramanya Ayyar put it, the system of land revenue is unscientific and not properly arranged by the Government. On top of the education cess, we have the local board cess. Recently the Land

28th February 1955] [Sri M. P. Govinda Menon]

Revenue Surcharge Act was passed imposing a graded scale of surcharge on land revenue. Now to crown all these the budget proposes to levy a flat surcharge of two annas in the rupee on all ryots. This is a uniform rate to be levied on all. The surcharge is levied on all people, rich or poor. A man who pays one rupee has to pay two annas. A man who pays Rs. 100 as land revenue, has to pay two annas in the rupee on that one hundred rupees. A man paying a lakh of rupees as land revenue has also to pay a surcharge of two annas in the rupee on that lakh of rupees. This is the new kind of socialistic pattern promised to us by our Congressmen. When the resolution on the socialistic pattern of society was placed before us, I was so immensely pleased with that resolution that I thought that I must rush back to my old organization. But the socialistic pattern of society which has been promised is this kind of society—not only equal suffering, but equal suffering for all people. I must suffer equality in this matter, that is, suffering must be distributed to all persons. This is the kind of socialistic pattern that is assured to us. Sir, I may warn the Government this much. If they carry on the administration like this—I am speaking more in sorrow than in anger—we may not prevent a greater danger to the freedom of our country. This kind of taxes, without caring for the people, will result in great trouble. Simple arithmetical calculation of getting some lakhs of rupees from these taxes, without caring for the consequences on the people, will result in great danger. The people are already overburdened with taxation. If they are still further taxed, there will be great danger not only to the Government but to the country. That is my fear. I do not mind if the Congress Party goes to dogs. But the country will be ruined. By trying to impose these taxes, we will be driving the people away to an undesirable path. I hope the Government will seriously consider my point. This budget is not the post-Avadi session budget. This is pre-Avadi session budget. May I, with all respect to them, say that the budget proposals should be thrown into the Cooum river, and that the Government should begin afresh with a new budget based on the socialistic pattern of society? I hope sense will dawn upon the Government. I hope the Government will realize their mistakes and the country will be saved from danger and disaster. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.”

* SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR :—“ Sir, I feel grateful to you for giving me this early opportunity to speak on this occasion. The budget, in my opinion, should be welcomed by all, not only by the members of this House but also by the general public and all institutions connected with the Government. Sir, in other countries the budget session is welcomed by all including the Opposition. It is an opportunity for the Opposition to pounce upon the Government and tear their schemes to pieces. For this reason in other Parliaments, this opportunity is being welcomed to criticise the measures of Government. The question whether the measures adumbrated are beneficial or disadvantageous, will be dealt with by the members. Sir, the budget session as pointed out by the

[Sri T. M. Daivasikhamani Achariar] [28th February 1955]

hon. Member Sri M. P. Govinda Menon is an opportunity for Members—no matter whether they are elected or nominated—to express their opinions freely and to advise the Government if they can. Sir, this budget is an improvement over the previous year's budget in that the Finance Minister was able to produce a Tamil translation of his budget speech. This shows the great aptitude he has for the language and his mastery of the language and also his literary taste. This alone is a great improvement on the previous budget speeches. It is very difficult to find certain technical equivalents in Tamil. For example, I may point out a mistake. For thermal plants the free translation in Tamil speech used is மின்சார நிலையங்கள். This may mean anything. (Interruption by Sri V. V. Ramaswami.) Then, I have come across the translation into Tamil of the word 'train' elsewhere. The translation is இருப்பு நெடுவண்டித்தொடர். This is the free translation given by a Tamil literary authority. In this way, I find there are insuperable difficulties in translating technical terms adequately. Therefore our first attempt before making Tamil our official language must be to get all these technical terms translated into Tamil equivalents. Before the Tamil language can be adopted as the official language at a future date, the first step should be to appoint a committee and charge it with the work of translating all these technical terms into appropriate Tamil.

5-20
p.m.

"Now, I come to the budget proper. Though it is a deficit budget, deficit by Rs. 166 lakhs, it is a very hopeful budget in the opinion of the Hon. the Finance Minister. After all, the figures given in the budget are not going to remain what they are. They are going to be altered. Once, Benjamin Disraeli said in the House of Commons, when he presented the budget, that there were three kinds of lies, viz., white lie, black lie and budget statistics. Thus, he classified budget statistics under 'lies'. By so saying he did not mean that the budget estimates are all lies. He only meant that the budget figures were capable of being altered from time to time. So also in this budget, we can substitute a new set of figures for the ones that are now given in it. Therefore, I think we need not go into the figures given in the budget. Leaving the figures aside, I now propose to deal with ten matters connected with the budget.

"Sir, let me begin with irrigation works and lay a great stress on the promotion of artificial rain. A large sum of money is now being spent for investigation and execution of several irrigation projects. In America, they have evolved a regular programme by which they take the 'rain' to parts which need it most. Instead of spending so much money on digging canals and damaging rivers, is it not reasonable that this Government must also investigate the possibilities of artificial rain?

"Coming next to electricity, it is gratifying to note that 1,000 villages are going to be electrified in a year. I would very much like to know whether it is the intention of the Government to extend

28th February 1955]

[Sri T. M. Daivasikhamani Achariar]

lighting only or whether it is their intention to make electricity available for the purpose of starting rural industries or small-scale industries. There is no use of extending electricity merely for the purpose of lighting. When we go to certain mofussil places, we find that the lighting is very bad and in some places it is worse than even the oil lamps. Unless we establish a sufficient number of thermal stations, it will be very difficult to tackle the problems of rural electrification and promotion of industries.

“Coming next to the Neiveli Lignite Project, we are not very sure whether it will be successful or not. I understand there are two layers of water, viz., the surface water and the underground water which the Government have to tackle. We do not know whether the underground water is stagnant or whether it is a current running into the sea. We are groping in the dark, so to say, in regard to this matter. On this project, the State Government have spent a sum of Rs. 80 lakhs without knowing the real position. We are told that the Government of India will come to our rescue by taking up the whole project and working it. It is a welcome news indeed that the Government of India at their expense are going to investigate the matter. If, God willing, they are successful we are told that we will get one-fourth of the net profit accruing from the project. Have we spent Rs. 80 lakhs only to get this much? I want that we must get a proportionate share from the project. With your permission, Sir, I would like to touch upon one or two important matters. If my time is up, with your kind permission can I speak tomorrow, Sir?”

MR. CHAIRMAN :—“We are sitting till 6 o'clock. The hon. Member has already taken 15 minutes. He may speak for seven more minutes.”

SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR :—“About the taxation proposals, I wish to say a few words, Sir. Besides the six old taxes, three new taxes have been imposed. The President of the All-India Jewellers' Association, Bombay, has published certain official information according to which we find that a sum of Rs. 600 crores is spent annually by the people of India in making jewels. I reckon that in this State the corresponding figure will be Rs. 70 crores. Originally there was a just proposal to levy an enhanced sales tax at the rate of Re. 0-1-3 on the jewels made and sold in shops. But all on a sudden, for reasons which are inexplicable, this proposal was given up on the responsibility of the Cabinet and the old rate of taxation was maintained. As a result of this, the Government have lost an income of about Rs. 218 lakhs. Why should the Government lose such a substantial income and come forward with fresh proposals to levy a tax on tobacco and other petty things? When the rich people can afford to spend so much on their marriages and luxurious jewels, they can very well afford to pay the increased sales tax. So, I feel that it is a wrong move on the part of the Government to have given up this enhanced sales

[Sri T. M. Daivasikhamani Achariar] [28th February 1955]

5-30
p.m.

tax at the request of some of the interested persons and thereby to have lost a substantial sum. Therefore, I request the Government to look into the matter seriously and do the needful.

“ There is yet another question, Sir, which I want to touch upon and that is the question of elementary education. Most of the hon. Members might have seen the questionnaire issued by the special committee on elementary education. Questions are written in chaste and high-flown English. Are the villagers going to grasp and understand what the questionnaire means? Therefore, whatever be the ability of the members of the committee, let them issue hereafter all their questionnaires, notifications and reports in the Tamil language. I hope I am justified in expressing this opinion. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not congratulate the Government on their wise decision to give compulsory free education up to 8th standard. Our State has set an example in the matter. When the future historian writes about the present administrators of the State, the names of the Chief Minister and that of the Education Minister will be paid due tribute.

“ Sir, in Salem district, iron-ores are found in superabundance. In that district, there is a small village known as Ethapur which produced large quantities of steel, first class steel, in the days of the East India Company. That place is now forgotten. When the subject of starting an iron and steel industry in Salem was mooted recently the Central Minister said that it was a day dream to think of installing a steel plant in Salem, much less in South India. Sir, this is a grave mistake. He throws the whole blame on lack of coal supplies in the State. Were not the Government importing coal all these days from abroad and other parts of India? Instead of wasting our money on the uncertain lignite project, we can as well get any amount of coal from foreign countries. Depending upon the lignite we are hoping to get, for running our industries is not safe. This reminds me of an old story. A man wanted brinjals. He purchased several acres of land and began planting brinjals all over—all for his daily use! This lignite project is something like this. I would like the Government to investigate the industrial possibilities in our State with the help of atomic energy. In other countries, they have found out that atomic energy can be used for industrial purposes and for the promotion of new industries; it has been found that 15 pounds of atomic fuel can produce as much power as 40 million pounds of coal! This is a subject which can be investigated by the Universities and in the laboratories started in Bangalore, Madras and Karaikudi. We must not be content with our past achievements in the industrial field. Our industrial possibilities should be explored to the fullest extent. My friend, Mr. Balasubramania Ayyar went out of his beaten-track and very rightly touched upon the subject of cottage industries in this State. I am glad that he has taken so much interest in these because it is the cottage industries that are going to give every prosperity to the State. I therefore lay a very great stress on this.

28th February 1955] [Sri T. M. Daivasikhamani Achariar]

“ Sir, with your indulgence, I have taken a few more minutes to close my speech. I now resume my seat.”

* SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY :—“ Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must say that this is a colourless budget. We are living in very important times. The historian will write this period as the most important period of the initial stages of the post-freedom era. We say we should build our nation. But who are the builders of the nation? Nobody can deny the fact that it is the teachers that are the builders of the nation. Sir, I was scanning the budget to find out whether there was any provision in it for amelioration of the condition of the teachers. I find it nowhere. Of course, the Government have tried to add a little colour to the budget by saying that they are going to spend 50 lakhs of rupees on giving education to poor children up to the end of III Form free of cost. If we make a survey, we will find that we have already given several concessions to children of backward and scheduled castes; besides, now the N.G.Os. and teachers have been permitted to have their children educated free of cost up to the end of III Form; the policemen's children also get education free; then come the children of employees of local bodies, etc. And, now the concession is confined to people who get less than Rs. 1,200 per annum by way of income. It is because several concessions have already been given in this way, the total cost of the new concessions may not come to Rs. 50,00,000. Unless the limit of income of the parent is raised to Rs. 300 per mensem as has been rightly done with reference to the cost of living index in the case of local board employees and concession is given to children of parents who get less than Rs. 3,600 per annum, I am afraid the provision of Rs. 50 lakhs may not be fully utilized. Now, Sir, what is it that has made the Government suddenly jump to the aid of the parent ignoring the teacher who has also educated the parent? This is a land where the teacher was held in high esteem as Guru. But now that is gone. The Guru is forgotten. His claim ought to have been settled as the first item in the list of priorities even on the 14th August 1947. On the 14th August 1947, the Guru felt happy that all his claims not defrayed by the foreigner would be considered by our Government. But even after eight years, of Swaraj, the teacher—the Guru—is yet to find his place in the list of ameliorative measures undertaken by the Government. Is it for want of clamour on the part of the teachers? No. They have been clamouring and I as their representative have been putting forth their demands here for the last nearly three years. I would like the hon. Members of this House to look into their demands. They are the builders of the nation. As the very name implies, they discharge the duty of the parents. This problem is not a party problem. It concerns all people, whether they sit on the Treasury Bench or on this side of the House. We say we are a Welfare State. We say we are building up the nation. We say we are aiming towards economic Swaraj. Our ways of living must change. Our fashions must change. Unless

5-40
P.m.

[Sri G. Krishnamoorthi]

[28th February 1955]

and until we change our ways of living, economic prosperity cannot come. When we say the ways of living must change, that means the system of education must also change and therefore the teacher has got to give his whole and undivided attention to the task of building up the nation. But I am very sorry that nothing has been mentioned in the budget about the amelioration of the condition of the teachers, who are engaged in the task of building up the nation. Mention has been made about concession being given to the N.G.Os. in the matter of liberalization of leave rules, viz., of how they would be permitted hereafter to accumulate 120 days instead of 90 days leave. Is this such a great concession as to be mentioned in a budget along with irrigation schemes and other beneficial schemes costing several lakhs and crores of rupees and that by a Government getting over Rs. 47 crores on the revenue side? No mention has been made of the teachers. What has been done in this budget to make the condition of teachers happy? What has been done to them? Have they been given a living wage? We do not ask for any luxury; we do not want that teachers should live in big bungalows and go about in cars. What is it that we ask? We want a living wage for the teacher. We do not want anything more than what is required for a simple living. What is he paid now? He is paid Rs. 30 by way of pay and Rs. 19 by way of dearness allowance. In these hard days, can we by any stretch of imagination say that this Rs. 49 per month is a living wage? In these days, for a husband and wife, not less than Rs. 200 is required a month for a decent living. Where is Rs. 200 and where is Rs. 49? In spite of our repeating it again and again, Government have not given the teachers a square deal. The teachers have not been treated properly. Even now it is not too late. It is not as if the budget figures could not be changed. In fact we often find that the budgeted estimate and the revised estimate do not agree. That is why I say, let the Government kindly consider the question whether they could not make any enhanced provision in the present budget itself for the amelioration of the condition of teachers. It is not too late. If only the Government have the mind, they could do it. Let them revise the figures accordingly and let that enhanced provision be made in this budget itself.

“I am saying this because it is the teacher who moulds the character of the future generation. The school is rightly described as a miniature society. If we have an irrigation or hydro-electric project, we say it is an item of capital expenditure and provide for it. It is treated as an item of capital expenditure since the benefits are to be enjoyed by the future generations and the present people should not pay for it from the current revenues. Education is not treated as a capital expenditure and extra provision is not made under capital expenditure for new schemes and better salaries for teachers. The benefit of education is passed on not only to future generations, but carried from birth to birth as a cultural heritage. Even to make the present capital expenditure on irrigation and

28th February 1955]

[Sri G. Krishnamoorthi]

electricity, really useful to the poor, the human element is important. Men of integrity and honesty are to be at the helm of affairs. It is the teacher who trains men of character, integrity and honesty. It is the human element that is important. Even for a mechanical brain working figures (the artificial machine brain) the human operator is required. It is the quality of education that is important. But the Government want to increase the quantity at the cost of quality.

“ We are going to have 1,500 single-teacher schools, besides the 2,800 recently opened. Let us see what this single-teacher school is. It is an elementary school started with an untrained teacher, who is to get the salary of a qualified teacher with two years of training. In due course the teacher is to handle more than one class. A short training of a few days may be claimed to be given to these teachers. But it is really adding to the hungry battalion of teachers. When the existing teachers are not given a living wage, why add to their number? Is it real education to have an untrained teacher and to put 40 children under his charge? We may say we are solving unemployment by employing such teachers. But we are really producing on the other side 40 ‘unemployables’ from out of the 40 children put in charge of that teacher. For every untrained teacher we are producing 40 ‘unemployables’. I say this sort of spreading of education is not spreading ‘real education’. It will not yield fruitful results. Again could you expect by paying the teacher Rs. 49 to devote his undivided attention to the pupils? When one’s stomach is not full, could you expect anyone to devote himself wholeheartedly to his work? Is the teacher given a living wage? When a husband and wife require Rs. 200, how could you expect the teacher to be content with the paltry sum of Rs. 49 when the cost of living index is as much as 350? The teacher is there to set an example to the boys. We know how children imitate the teacher. When the teacher goes to the class room, ill-clad and ill-fed with sunken eyes, will not the boys imitate him? Even those who have not read psychology specially know that the child has got a lot of imitative power. It tries to imitate the teacher. When the teacher comes ill-clad, do you want the child also to come ill-clad to the class, because by natural instinct it will try to imitate the teacher. By his manners and conduct, the teacher should conduct himself in such a manner as to be an example to the pupils. That is why I say, let him be paid a living wage and made to concentrate more on his work, with love. But the Government may say ‘Well, Krishnamoorthi, we know what you say. But even after the separation of Andhra, we have a lakh of teachers. Even if it is a question of giving one rupee increase in the pay of a teacher per month, it means Rs. 12 per year per teacher and that may cost the exchequer as much as Rs. 12 lakhs.’ But if it is a fact that when you have as much as Rs. 47 crores as income on the revenue account, it is not possible to give some increase to the teachers, why incur more expenditure by starting more schools? When you are not providing even a living

[Sri G. Krishnamoorthi]

[28th February 1955]

5-50
p.m.

wage to the present teachers why add to the number of teachers and create more 'unemployables' as I have said previously by opening single-teacher schools with untrained men? We know the sort of education that would be given in these single-teacher schools. It is not education at all. Our experience has proved that the type of education that is now being given in schools is not useful in later life and much of what we learn has to be forgotten. Nothing is useful except some smattering of English and some arithmetical knowledge to add and subtract. That sort of useless and purposeless education, we are trying to perpetuate, by starting more single-teacher schools. We may make a Deputy Inspector of Schools follow a piper with great pomp and open an elementary school. We may say that every village with a population of 500 and above is going to have a school. But unless the quality of education is improved this quantitative improvement will be a waste. Sir, I have been asking the Government, 'Why not feed the existing teachers?' Let the Government make them strong, make them feel more happy and cheerful, make them real examples before the forty children before whom they sit and make them pay undivided attention to their work. Is this a very hard task? The Government have been telling that this is a department which does not bring in anything—not even one crore—by way of receipts and that the department is spending Rs. 10½ crores. Out of a revenue of Rs. 47 crores, we are spending a sum of Rs. 10½ crores on education—a major item in the Budget for education. But I have always been stating 'Throwing away these Rs. 10½ crores into the Bay of Bengal is the same as spending them on Education.' There are two things in education, first the content of education that we impart and secondly the undivided attention that is to be given to Education by the teacher. The Government have been saying 'We have formed the Elementary Education Committee and we have the Secondary Education Commission Report' for re-organizing the content of Education. How many years is it now since we got Independence? It is more than eight years and we are in the committee stage only. Can we not do all these things within less than six months by asking a few educationists to sit together, study the problem and chalk out the picture of the future individual according to the national and economic needs and just put the daily routine required for that as the syllabus in the school? Very easily this can be done. It cannot be controversial whatsoever. What we wish to do in society is going to be the syllabus in the school, the miniature society. Unless and until this is done, this large amount allotted for education is sure to be a waste.

"We are trying to expand education quantitatively and not qualitatively. Therefore we are committing the greatest mistake by adding to the number of hungry battalions of teachers. The Government can show so many teachers as employed on paper, why, even in flesh and blood. They are all men of poverty. They are in the profession because they have been caught into it. They do

28th February 1955]

[Sri G. Krishnamoorthi]

not want to leave off the profession for good reasons. It is necessary for the Government to see that these teachers are there continuing in their profession as a contented lot. The Government should not think 'We need not worry ourselves. Let them claim and claim. We will have our own time.'

"The teachers must be enabled to give their undivided attention to their work by a living wage. In the interests of the nation, in the interests of the child, and in the interests of the parents, it is the imperative duty of the Government first to concentrate on education and then only on irrigation and electricity projects. We have so many schemes for constructing reservoirs and canals. We may have so many schemes for constructing dams. But unless we have got a person of honesty, integrity and character to handle all these things, the benefit of all these things will not go to the poverty-stricken masses. To produce that amount of honesty, integrity and character, the school is the only possible place. The man who is in charge of that task is the teacher, and unless we start from the bottom, as the hon. Sri Govinda Menon pointed out, we cannot make any headway. Unless we give the teacher the living wage, we will not be doing any service to the nation. I go further and say that service to the teacher is service to the poor man and service to the poor man is service to God. Service to the teacher is service to the nation, because he is the nation-builder. So long as we delay service to the teacher, we are delaying service to the nation. Bridges and dams may loom large. The defects of education do not loom large, as they are only abstract things. As philosophy says, it is only abstract things that stand for ever. Education stands for ever. That is the cultural tradition of our nation. This cannot be stolen by anybody or carried by anybody. This tradition enabled us to stand on a common line with other nations the moment our bonds of slavery were taken away. If we had not been cultured, and we had not had that cultural tradition, we could not have claimed an equal place with other nations. We were kept bound and fettered by foreigners. Once our fetters were taken away we were able to say that we were not only equal but superior to other nations. In order to preserve that cultural heredity, in order to make people think again and again of our nation, history has to be re-written. Still we are re-writing that history! Cannot the Madras Government give a lead in this matter? Will not the Government pass the necessary orders? Do not the Government have the power to direct the Director of Public Instruction in the matter? The history books prescribed should be prescribed, torn and should be thrown away into the gutters. The history of our country should be re-written. It is high time that the Government did it.

"Sir, we have a text-book committee under the auspices of the Government of Madras. A number of books preaching communal hatred are published. There are anti-religious writings and also publication of false information. Books are published praising

[Sri G. Krishnamoorthi]

[28th February 1955]

foreigners and degrading ourselves. Is it not high time that we took away all these things? Unless and until we take away all these books, all our communal bickerings and parochial demands for separate States would not vanish. We should see that all these things are taken away. It is education and education alone that can bring about the emancipation of the nation. There is no use of just adding some figures. We want radical and revolutionary changes in the Budget. We want the whole Budget to be re-arranged. We want to change the habits and ways of living. We want the schools to cater to this need. We want the teachers to do all these things. Once the teachers are promised a living wage, they would do all this. The lower the standard, the higher must be the qualification of the teacher. But our departmental rules are against this. We want the greatest man for the lowest class. We know in practice that in colleges the students can look after themselves. But our departmental rules say that even a highly qualified man should get less salary if employed in a middle school or elementary school. All these things must change. The Government must change all these and bring in a new scheme with a promise that they will give a living wage to the teacher. I have been suggesting to the Government—in a Congress-minded way, though I have not been wearing khaddar—that if they really feel the need for finance, they can easily get the money. It is not money that stands in the way of the Government. They can, if they want to, tax the parents a little and get their contributions, credit all these contributions to a Fund called the 'Teachers' Maintenance Fund, and from out of that Fund they can pay something to the teachers. I have given facts and figures already. A sum of Rs. 1½ crores at least can be collected for that Fund from out of the simple contributions from pupils. According to the latest statistics published by the Government of Madras, I find that at least 30 lakhs of school-going children are there in elementary schools and more than five lakhs are there in secondary schools. I just tell them to leave off five lakhs in the elementary schools and one lakh in the secondary schools. Let Government take only 25 lakhs of the actual school-going children in elementary schools, get Rs. 3 from each child—one rupee per quarter as Guru Dakshina. This will mean Rs. 75 lakhs. Let Government leave one lakh of children in the secondary schools. Let them collect from four lakhs of pupils at the rate of Re. 1 each along with each instalment of fees. There are now ten instalments. Ten rupees a year will be paid as Guru Dakshina by each pupil. This will mean Rs. 40 lakhs. Thus Government will get Rs. 115 lakhs. From out of this Rs. 115 lakhs, they can meet easily the demand for an increase of Rs. 10 in the salary of the teacher. An old age provision also can be made. The teacher is there to discharge the primary duty of developing and making the nation. An old age provision has to be made for him. If the Government have the mind to do this, they can tax the parents. They may say that they do not want to tax the parents and they do not want

28th February 1955]

[Sri G. Krishnamoorthi]

to tax the middle classes. They may say 'How is it that Krishnamurthi who used to plead the cause of the middle classes suggests this?' They have imposed the betterment levy on those who get the benefit from out of the general tax-payer's money. They want that they should pay for the benefit they enjoy. In the same way a Teachers' Maintenance Fund can be raised by asking the parents of school-children to pay. After all the middle-class man can pay this amount. He is spending money on several luxuries. He can cut out luxuries like cinemas and pay Rs. 3 a year to the teacher. This is not much of a tax on him.

"Sir, even at the present moment they are paying for so many other things. That is why I venture to suggest in this connexion that the parents of the students can very well pay a small amount for the benefit of the teacher as 'Guru dakshinai'. This is nothing to them, I say. They will not grudge this. The Government may think that by making education free up to a certain standard in respect of certain persons, they have done a great thing. In my opinion, it is not a great thing. The Government have yet to do a lot of things to help the teachers. There are many ways in which they can do this. I have been repeatedly pointing out to the Government how they can help the teachers. It is in this connexion I have suggested that the parents of students must be made to feel that they have also got a share in helping the poor teachers to whose care their boys and girls are entrusted. As I said, to-day the parents are spending quite a lot on the education of their children in purchasing text-books and so many other things. With these few observations, I appeal to the Government and also to the hon. Members of this House to see that some ameliorative measures are taken and provided for even in this Budget so that the builders of the nation are restored to their rightful position little by little."

MR. CHAIRMAN:—"The House will now adjourn and meet again to-morrow at 3 p.m."

The House then adjourned.

III.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

* Bill passed by the Assembly and received therefrom in the Council: The Madras General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1955 (L.A. Bill No. 4 of 1955).

[28th February 1955]

APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 213 asked by Sri M. Ethirajulu at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 28th February 1955 on page 301 supra.]

(a) Number of persons convicted by violation of Prohibition Act from 1951 to 1954—

1951	..	..	..	4,962
1952	..	..	..	5,850
1953	..	..	..	5,540
1954	..	..	..	4,954

(b) Amount of fines collected—

				RS.	A.	P.
1951	..	..	..	91,331	0	0
1952	..	..	..	1,12,216	0	0
1953	..	..	..	95,194	12	0
1954	..	..	..	71,800	0	0

(c) Number of prosecutions launched—

				Police.	Excise.
1951	..	..	..	809	4,179
1952	..	..	..	1,081	4,637
1953	..	..	..	733	4,505
1954	..	..	..	867	3,910

(d) Number of men, women and juveniles involved—

	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.
1951	4,805	336	52
1952	5,597	434	60
1953	5,170	461	43
1954	4,551	381	63